



No 6457.1

1843-1851



GIVEN BY

J. Mason Warren

REGISTRY AND RETURNS
OF
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS
IN
MASSACHUSETTS.

1768

一、此項工程，係由本局承辦，現已開工，預計於明年完工。

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SECOND

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

LEGISLATURE :

UNDER THE ACT OF MARCH, 1842, RELATING TO THE

REGISTRY AND RETURNS

OF

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

IN

MASSACHUSETTS.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 1ST, 1843.

BY JOHN A. BOLLES,
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

December, 1843.

Boston:
DUTTON AND WENTWORTH, STATE PRINTERS.

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1843.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Dec., 1843.

*To the President of the Senate
and Speaker of the House of Representatives :*

I have the honor to transmit the following Report and Tables, prepared in conformity to the Act of 1842, "relating to the Registry and Returns of Births, Marriages and Deaths."

REPORT.

The duty of the Secretary, under the Registration Act of 1842, is twofold, and relates 1st, to the Town Clerks; and 2d, to the Legislature.

I. AS RELATING TO THE TOWN CLERKS.

The Secretary is directed to prepare and furnish to the town clerks blank forms of returns, in accordance with the details of the act; to accompany those forms with the needful explanations and instructions; and generally to do whatever may be required to carry into effect all the objects and provisions of the several laws which relate to this matter.

In discharging this portion of my duty, I prepared and forwarded to the clerk of every town and city a blank form of return in April last, accompanied with the following Circular Letter of instructions, and the forms therewith connected :

(Circular.)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

 SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Boston, April 10th, 1843.
To the Town Clerk :

SIR,—In conformity with the Act of March 3, 1842, (which is hereto annexed,) I transmit herewith a blank form of Return of the Births, Marriages and Deaths, which shall have occurred in your town for one year, ending May 1, 1843. The manner in which this blank is to be filled up and signed, needs no explanation. The Return must, by law, be made *during the month of May*, or the Clerk incurs the penalty of \$10 for neglect. Last year 35 towns neglected to make Returns. It is to be hoped that the present year may find every Clerk prompt in the discharge of his duty.

Besides filling the enclosed blank, the law requires every Town Clerk to send to the Secretary, at the time above named, *a certified copy of his record* of Births, Marriages and Deaths for the year.

You will, therefore, please forward an exact and certified copy of your record. Nothing short of this can be taken to be a proper compliance with the requisitions of the Statute ;—and from nothing else can any safe conclusions be drawn in regard to needful reforms in our system of registration.

In keeping your records for another year, you will find it expedient and convenient to record the Births, Marriages and Deaths in separate volumes—ruled for the purpose. I enclose a specimen of the manner in which each volume might be ruled and kept so as to furnish the information desired by the law, and, at the same time, enable you, each year, to prepare a clear and intelligible copy of the record.

The Town Clerks will find, on looking into the Revised Statutes, (Chapters 15th and 75th,) that the citizens are bound to

make returns to them of all Births, Marriages and Deaths. An increased attention to these legal requirements will be the natural result of a proper effort on the part of town officers to enforce the law. There is not a town, probably, in the Commonwealth, which has not, at the present time, a just claim of hundreds of dollars, upon delinquent parents, &c. A few exactions of the penalty would give universal efficacy to the statute, and result in great and general benefit.

Regarding this matter as one of great importance, I trust that you may coincide in my opinion, and do all in your power to perfect your record and return.

I am, very truly, yours,

JOHN A. BOLLES,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

An Act relating to the Registry and Returns of Births, Marriages and Deaths.

SECT. 1. The Clerks of the several towns and cities in the Commonwealth shall, annually, in the month of May, transmit to the Secretary of the Commonwealth a certified copy of their record of the Births, Marriages and Deaths of all persons within their respective towns and cities, which may come to their knowledge; shall state the number of Births and Marriages, and the number of Deaths, with the name, sex, age, (and if an adult male, the occupation,) and the names of the diseases of which all persons have died, or are supposed to have died, together with the cause or causes of the death of all such deceased persons, so far as they may be able to obtain a knowledge of the same from physicians or others; and any Clerk who shall neglect to make such Return, shall be liable to a penalty of ten dollars, to be recovered for the use of any town or city where such neglect shall be proved to have existed.

SECT. 2. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall prepare and furnish, to the Clerks of the several towns and cities in this Commonwealth, blank forms of returns, as herein before

specified, and shall accompany the same with such instructions and explanations as may be necessary and useful ; and he shall receive said returns, and prepare therefrom such tabular results as will render them of practical utility, and shall make report thereof annually to the Legislature, and generally shall do whatever may be required to carry into effect the objects of this Act, and of the several provisions of the Revised Statutes not inconsistent with this Act.

FORM OF RECORD OF MARRIAGES.

No.	Date of Marriage.	Names of both Groom and Bride.	Ages of each.	Color of each.	The Town to which each belonged at date of Marriage.
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

FORM OF RECORD OF BIRTHS.

No.	Christian and Surnames of Child.	The Names of the Parents.	Sex of the child.		Date of Birth.
			Male	Female	
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

FORM OF RECORD OF DEATHS.

No.	Date of Death.	Name of Deceased.	Age.			Sex.		Occupation.	Cause of Death.
			Yrs.	Mos.	Dys.	Male	Female		
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									

In reply to this circular, and the form of return which went with it, I received returns from 238 towns during the month of May, and from 57 towns at a later date; so that in all 295 complied with the provisions of the Act, to a greater or less extent. From *thirteen* towns, with a population of 26,105, no returns had come in when the tables were prepared. This is a decided gain upon the preceding year, when *thirty-five* towns, with a population of 76,654, were delinquent.

In compliance with my directions many town clerks sent exact copies of their records. But there is no uniform method of keeping these records, and some are so kept that copies cannot be furnished.

I felt great doubt as to my authority to direct or prescribe a uniform method of registration; but as the circular will show, I suggested a form which might be conveniently adopted, and urged it upon the attention of town clerks.

These municipal officers, as a body, seem deeply interested in the subject matter and object of the laws relating to births, marriages and deaths. But they uniformly complain of the defects in those laws, and the general disregard of their provisions. And their complaints are well founded. For my own views upon this subject, I would respectfully refer the Legislature to my first Report, made in Feb. 1843. For the views of the town clerks, an examination may be made of their letters contained in the tabular portion of this report, (pp. 12-31.) I would also refer to the elaborate and very valuable communication of Lemuel Shattuck, Esq., which follows the tables, and exhibits the results of that gentleman's researches upon the entire subject of Vital Statistics.

II. AS RELATING TO THE LEGISLATURE:

The law requires the Secretary to *receive* the returns made by the town clerks, and prepare therefrom such tabular results as will render them of practical utility, and make report thereof to the Legislature, and generally to do whatever may be required to accomplish the design of the laws.

In obedience to this portion of the act, after consultation with

various scientific gentlemen, I have prepared, or caused to be prepared, either in this office or under the direction of a member of the medical faculty, the tables which are hereto annexed, and which are, perhaps, as good a result as could reasonably be expected from such imperfect returns as have been received.

The *first Table* (p. 1,) exhibits in separate lists the various towns which have made returns, in season or out of season, or which have wholly failed to comply with the law. It will be perceived that all the towns in the several counties of Suffolk, Essex, Norfolk, Dukes and Nantucket have made returns, while all the other counties are more or less delinquent.

The *second Table* (p. 5,) contains, *first*, a general statement of the whole number of marriages, births and deaths contained in the returns, county by county, giving the entire population of each county from the U. S. Census of 1840, and the number of people in each county employed in the different leading occupations and pursuits, and the population of towns that have made no return; and *second*, (p. 6-11,) a detailed statement of the population of each town in Massachusetts, with the whole number of births, marriages and deaths recorded in each during the year ending May 1, 1843.

The *second* portion of this table contains abundant foot-notes, which will reward a careful examination.

The *third* part of table 2d contains the aggregate of births, marriages and deaths for the two years of 1841-2 and 1842-3, and exhibits the comparative numbers of each class of facts for those two years. Then follow several letters from town clerks, containing practical hints, or facts, worthy of notice.

The *third Table* (p. 32,) is a synopsis of those whose occupations are given by the town clerks in their returns of deaths, showing their ages, and the approximate average longevity of each occupation.

Table four (p. 35,) exhibits by counties the number of deaths, male or female, returned for each month in the year, and the age at which every such death occurred, with a recapitulation (p. 48,) showing the whole number of deaths returned as having occurred in each month for the whole State.

Table five, prepared by A. A. Gould, M. D., contains a classification of the causes of death stated in the returns, arranged by counties.

Table six, prepared by the same able and careful hand, is another nosological classification, and shows in what seasons of the year, and at what periods of life, each particular disease proved fatal.

Next after the tables follows the communication of Mr. Shattuck, to which reference has been already made.

In conclusion, I would again beg leave to express the conviction that until some changes shall be made in the existing laws, no Secretary can reasonably expect to obtain returns which will be of much practical utility.

Hoping that this most interesting and important subject will be made the subject of special consideration by the Legislature,

I am, with the highest respect,

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN A. BOLLES, *Secretary*.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

TABLE I.

- Exhibiting—1. A List of Towns which made Returns within the prescribed period :*
2. A List of Towns from which Returns were received after the prescribed period :
3. The Names of Towns which failed to make Returns before this Report was prepared :
4. Recapitulation.

1.—List of Towns which made Returns within the time prescribed by law.

SUFFOLK.	MIDDLESEX.	MIDDLESEX—Contin'd.
Boston,	Acton,	Stow,
2—Chelsea.	Ashby,	Tewksbury,
	Bedford,	Townsend,
ESSEX.	Billerica,	Waltham,
Amesbury,	Boxborough,	Wayland,
Beverly,	Brighton,	Westford,
Boxford,	Burlington,	Weston,
Danvers,	Cambridge,	Wilmington,
Georgetown,	Charlestown,	Woburn,
Gloucester,	Chelmsford,	38—Somerville.
Hamilton,	Concord,	
Haverhill,	Dracut,	WORCESTER.
Ipswich,	Dunstable,	Ashburnham,
Lynn,	Framingham,	Athol,
Lynnfield,	Holliston,	Auburn,
Manchester,	Lincoln,	Barre,
Marblehead,	Littleton,	Berlin,
Methuen,	Lowell,	Boylston,
Middleton,	Malden,	Charlton,
Newbury,	Marlborough,	Dana,
Newburyport,	Medford,	Douglas,
Rockport,	Natick,	Dudley,
Rowley,	Newton,	Fitchburg,
Salem,	Pepperell,	Gardner,
Salisbury,	Reading,	Grafton,
Topsfield,	Sherburne,	Hardwick,
Wenham,	Shirley,	Holden,
24—West Newbury.	South Reading,	Hubbardston,

WORCESTER—*Cont'd.*

Leicester,
 Leominster,
 Lunenburg,
 Mendon,
 Milford,
 New Braintree,
 North Brookfield,
 Oakham,
 Oxford,
 Paxton,
 Petersham,
 Princeton,
 Royalston,
 Rutland,
 Shrewsbury,
 Southbridge,
 Spencer,
 Sterling,
 Sutton,
 Templeton,
 Upton,
 Warren,
 Webster,
 Westborough,
 West Boylston,
 Westminster,
 Winchendon,
 44—Worcester.

HAMPSHIRE.

Amherst,
 Belchertown,
 Cummington,
 Easthampton,
 Enfield,
 Goshen,
 Granby,
 Greenwich,
 Middlefield,
 Norwich,
 Pelham,
 Plainfield,
 South Hadley,
 Southampton,
 Ware,
 Westhampton,
 17—Williamsburg.

HAMPDEN.

Blandford,
 Brimfield,
 Chester,
 Granville,
 Holland,

HAMPDEN—*Continued.*

Longmeadow,
 Ludlow,
 Monson,
 Montgomery,
 Springfield,
 Tolland,
 Wales,
 West Springfield,
 14—Wilbraham.

FRANKLIN.

Bernardston,
 Charlemont,
 Colrairie,
 Erving,
 Gill,
 Hawley,
 Heath,
 Leyden,
 Monroe,
 Montague,
 New Salem,
 Northfield,
 Orange,
 Rowe,
 Shelburne,
 Shutesbury,
 Sunderland,
 Wendell,
 19—Whately.

BERKSHIRE.

Alford,
 Dalton,
 Florida,
 Great Barrington,
 Hancock,
 Hinsdale,
 Lee,
 Lenox,
 New Marlborough,
 Otis,
 Peru,
 Pittsfield,
 Richmond,
 Savoy,
 Sheffield,
 Stockbridge,
 Tyringham,
 Washington,
 West Stockbridge,
 20—Williamstown.

NORFOLK.

Bellingham,
 Braintree,
 Brookline,
 Cohasset,
 Dedham,
 Dorchester,
 Dover,
 Foxborough,
 Medfield,
 Medway,
 Milton,
 Needham,
 Quincy,
 Randolph,
 Roxbury,
 Stoughton,
 17—Weymouth.

BRISTOL.

Attleborough,
 Berkley,
 Dartmouth,
 Dighton,
 Fairhaven,
 Fall River,
 Norton,
 Pawtucket,
 Raynham,
 Rehoboth,
 Seekonk,
 Somerset,
 Swansea,
 14—Taunton.

PLYMOUTH.

Bridgewater,
 Carver,
 Duxbury,
 East Bridgewater,
 Halifax,
 Hanover,
 Hull,
 Kingston,
 Marshfield,
 North Bridgewater,
 Pembroke,
 Plymouth,
 Plympton,
 Scituate,
 Wareham,
 16—West Bridgewater.

BARNSTABLE.

Barnstable,

BARNSTABLE— <i>Con'd.</i> Brewster, Chatham, Eastham, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich,	BARNSTABLE— <i>Con'd.</i> Wellfleet, 9-Yarmouth. DUKE'S. Chilmark, Edgartown,	DUKE'S— <i>Continued.</i> 3-Tisbury. NANTUCKET. 1-Nantucket. <hr/> 238
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2.—*List of Towns which have made Returns since May 31, 1843.*

ESSEX. Andover, Bradford, Essex, 4-Saugus. MIDDLESEX. Carlisle, Groton, Lexington, Stoneham, Sudbury, Tyngsborough, 7-West Cambridge. WORCESTER. Bolton, Harvard, Lancaster, Millbury, Northborough, Northbridge, Phillipston, Southborough, Sturbridge, 10-Uxbridge.	HAMPSHIRE. Chesterfield, Hatfield, Northampton, Prescott, 5-Worthington. HAMPDEN. Russell, Southwick, 3-Westfield. FRANKLIN. Ashfield, Buckland, Conway, Deerfield, Leverett, 6-Warwick. BERKSHIRE. Becket, Clarksburg, Egremont, Lanesborough, New Ashford,	BERKSHIRE— <i>Cont'd.</i> Sandisfield, <i>letter.</i> 7-Mount Washington. NORFOLK. Canton, Franklin, Sharon, Walpole, 5-Wrentham. BRISTOL. Easton, Mansfield, 3-New Bedford. PLYMOUTH. Abington, Hingham, Middleborough, 4-Rochester. BARNSTABLE. Dennis, Falmouth, 3-Harwich. <hr/> 57
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3.—*List of Towns which have made no Returns.*

Hopkinton and Watertown, in MIDDLESEX; Brookfield, in WORCESTER; Hadley, in HAMPSHIRE; Palmer, in HAMPDEN; Greenfield, in FRANKLIN; Adams, Cheshire and Windsor, in BERKSHIRE; Freetown and Westport, in BRISTOL; Hanson, in PLYMOUTH; and Truro, in BARNSTABLE: In all, 13 Towns.

4.—Recapitulation.

COUNTIES.	No. of Towns from which Returns were received on or before May 31, 1843.	No. of Towns from which Returns have been received since May 31.	Number of Towns which have not made Returns.	TOTAL.	Names of Towns which have not made Returns.
Suffolk, . . .	2	. . .	. . .	2	Hopkinton.
Essex, . . .	24	4	. . .	28	Watertown.
Middlesex, . .	38	7	2	47	Brookfield.
Worcester, . .	44	10	1	55	Hadley.
Hampshire, . .	17	5	1	23	Palmer.
Hampden, . . .	14	3	1	18	Greenfield.
Franklin, . . .	19	6	1	26	Adams.
Berkshire, . .	20	7	3	30	Cheshire.
Norfolk, . . .	17	5	. . .	22	Windsor.
Bristol, . . .	14	3	2	19	Freetown.
Plymouth, . .	16	4	1	21	Westport.
Barnstable, . .	9	3	1	13	Hanson.
Duke's County, .	3	. . .	. . .	3	Truro.
Nantucket, . .	1	. . .	. . .	1	. . .
	238	57	13	308	13

TABLE II.

Exhibiting—1. A Statement of the several Counties, with their Population and modes of Employment, as per U. S. Census of 1840, and the whole number of Births, Marriages and Deaths returned from each for the year ending May 1, 1843:

2. A more detailed Statement in regard to every Town, with remarks and an Appendix of letters from the Town Clerks of Boston, Essex, Gloucester, Cambridge, Chelmsford, Lexington, Medford, Natick, Bolton, Douglas, Hardwick, Southborough, N. Brookfield, Sterling, Westborough, Amherst, Easthampton, Southampton, Ware, Springfield, Heath, Canton, Milton, Wrentham, Fall River, N. Bedford, Plymouth, Marshfield, W. Bridgewater, &c. &c.

1.—General Statement.

COUNTIES.	POPULATION EMPLOYED IN						Deaths.	Towns that made no Return.	
	Agriculture.	Commerce.	Manufactures and Trades.	Navigation.	Other occupations.	Total Census of 1840.		Population.	Number.
Suffolk, .	348	2088	5583	10,942	602	95,773	2343	.	.
Essex, .	7607	551	13,984	4230	540	94,987	1421	.	.
Middlesex, .	14,170	1542	19,975	859	572	106,611	1598	4055	2
Worcester, .	17,583	503	11,778	17	411	95,313	1369	2472	1
Hampshire, .	6547	236	2387	17	168	30,897	518	1814	1
Hampden, .	6421	247	5190	50	198	37,366	357	2139	1
Franklin, .	6011	182	1387	10	165	28,812	358	1756	1
Berkshire, .	8630	124	3511	20	214	41,745	387	5650	3 and Boston Corner.
Norfolk, .	6035	846	7756	410	386	53,140	682	.	2
Bristol, .	6429	885	6459	2364	685	60,165	360	4592	1
Plymouth, .	5542	360	5136	1130	228	47,373	643	1772	1 and Dist'ct
Barnstable, .	1972	240	1360	5474	104	32,548	397	2229	Marshpee.
Duke's County, .	424	32	144	387	19	3958	56	.	.
Nantucket, .	118	227	526	1615	11	9012	195	.	.
Total, .	87,837	8063	85,176	27,525	4303	737,700	10,684	26,479	13

TABLE II.—DETAILED STATEMENT.

Cities and Towns.	Popul'n.	Marr.	Bths.	Dths.	Cities and Towns.	Popul'n.	Marr.	Bths.	Dths.
SUFFOLK.					MIDDLESEX.				
Boston, ¹ - -	93,383	776	4	2230	Acton, ⁸ - -	1121	11	-	10
Chelsea, ² - -	2390	8	87	113	Ashby, - -	1246	14	20	23
	95,773	784	91	2343	Bedford, - -	929	7	7	21
ESSEX.					Billerica, ⁹ -	1632	8	4	25
Amesbury, -	2471	23	22	43	Boxborough, ¹⁰	426	9	10	5
Andover, - -	5207	37	21	64	Brighton, ¹¹ -	1425	7	5	18
Beverly, ³ - -	4689	39	51	97	Burlington, ¹² -	510	4	-	12
Boxford, - -	942	12	5	6	Cambridge, ¹³	8409	53	19	154
Bradford, - -	2222	7	26	26	Carlisle, - -	556	1	7	5
Danvers, - -	5020	33	13	15	Charlestown, -	11,484	107	20	200
Essex, ⁴ - -	1450	7	29	20	Chelmsford, -	1697	9	18	3
Georgetown, -	1540	25	36	10	Concord, - -	1784	6	6	26
Gloucester, ⁵ -	6350	52	211	83	Dracut, - -	2188	8	5	12
Hamilton, - -	818	8	13	16	Dunstable, -	603	6	5	6
Haverhill, - -	4336	38	3	2	Framingham, -	3030	20	12	16
Ipswich, - -	3000	16	4	45	Groton, - -	2139	19	59	36
Lynn, ⁶ - - -	9367	29	41	116	Holliston, ¹⁴ -	1782	13	63	40
Lynnfield, - -	707	6	23	11	Hopkinton, -	2245	-	-	-
Manchester, -	1355	10	54	26	Lexington, ¹⁵ -	1642	11	1	-
Marblehead, -	5575	39	169	104	Lincoln, - -	686	1	8	8
Methuen, - -	2251	24	65	28	Littleton, - -	927	7	12	10
Middleton, -	657	3	13	14	Lowell, - -	20,796	363	7	439
Newbury, - -	3789	17	49	42	Malden, - -	2514	4	39	18
Newburyport, -	7161	63	167	139	Marlborough, -	2101	20	64	25
Rockport, ⁷ -	2650	23	87	56	Medford, ¹⁶ -	2478	25	106	27
Rowley, - -	1203	11	11	15	Natick, - -	1285	10	31	25
Salem, - - -	15,082	147	486	285	Newton, ¹⁷ -	3351	23	2	32
Salisbury, - -	2739	34	43	57	Pepperell, -	1571	16	21	18
Saugus, - -	1098	13	30	35	Reading, - -	2193	21	59	36
Topsfield, - -	1059	4	5	35	Sherburne, ¹⁸ -	995	10	27	22
Wenham, - -	689	7	22	9	Shirley, - -	957	10	18	13
W. Newbury, -	1560	15	25	22	Somerville, ¹⁹ -		2	7	18
	94,987	742	1724	1421	S. Reading, -	1517	13	60	23
					Stoneham, ²⁰ -	1017	7	6	11
					Stow, - - -	1230	12	2	1

¹ Mr. McCleary, the city clerk, thinks that the registration year should coincide with the political, and complains that births are not returned for record.

² See Appendix. In this town the names of persons deceased are entered on the record alphabetically, thus occasioning great embarrassment in preparing the various Tables.

³ "The No. of births probably 125."

⁴ No return last year. See Appendix.

⁵ See Appendix.

⁶ The return does not state the number of deaths, but there are 116 specified by name. The clerk complains that the law is disregarded.

⁷ The facts contained in this return were obtained by personal visitation and inquiry by Mr. Pool, the town clerk.

⁸ The clerk complains of a want of returns to him.

⁹ Same as in Acton.

¹⁰ Same as in Acton and Billerica.

¹¹ Ditto.

¹² Ditto. The clerk thinks the Act should oblige some person to complain of delinquents.

¹³ See Appendix.

¹⁴ "Great delinquency on the part of parents, &c."

¹⁵ The entire return is in the Appendix.

¹⁶ For the letter of the town clerk, see Appendix.

¹⁷ "The real No. of deaths probably 50, and of births still larger."

¹⁸ The return is founded on information collected by the clerk.

¹⁹ Population included in Charlestown, supposed 1250. No census has been taken since Somerville was incorporated.

²⁰ The real No. of births probably as many as 33. Only one death was actually reported to town clerk. Last year he collected the facts himself.

TABLE II.—CONTINUED.

Cities and Towns.	Popul'n.	Marr.	Bths.	Dths.	Cities and Towns.	Popul'n.	Marr.	Bths.	Dths.
Sudbury, - -	1422	14	15	20	N. Braintree, -	752	5	6	6
Tewksbury, ¹ -	906	7	4	10	Northborough,	1248	7	9	21
Townsend, -	1892	11	-	22	Northbridge, -	1449	8	20	17
Tyngsboro', ² -	870	6	24	15	N. Brookfield, ⁸	1485	13	2	23
Waltham, -	2504	26	31	39	Oakham, - -	1038	6	34	15
Watertown, -	1810	-	-	-	Oxford, ⁹ - -	1742	17	19	31
Wayland, - -	998	13	28	16	Paxton, - -	670	9	5	-
W. Cambridge,	1363	19	37	33	Petersham, -	1775	20	2	26
Westford, ³ -	1436	9	17	29	Phillipston, ¹⁰	919	5	13	17
Weston, - -	1092	9	26	21	Princeton, -	1347	5	4	17
Wilmington, ⁴	859	12	15	13	Royalston, -	1667	12	6	17
Woburn, - -	2993	39	3	42	Rutland, - -	1260	11	27	15
	106611	1022	930	1598	Shrewsbury, -	1481	9	29	12
WORCEST'R.					Southborough,	1145	1	23	13
Ashburnham, -	1652	18	44	33	Southbridge, ¹¹	2031	18	58	25
Athol, - - -	1591	12	49	27	Spencer, - -	1604	22	36	28
Auburn, - - -	649	6	3	8	Sterling, ¹² -	1647	17	9	31
Barre, - - -	2751	21	75	41	Sturbridge, -	2005	13	4	33
Berlin, - - -	763	6	13	17	Sutton, - - -	2370	19	7	20
Bolton, - - -	1186	11	42	21	Templeton, -	1776	19	13	23
Boylston, - -	797	9	9	15	Upton, - - -	1466	19	56	25
Brookfield, -	2472	-	-	-	Uxbridge, - -	2004	10	51	31
Charlton, - -	2117	20	25	39	Warren, - - -	1290	5	25	18
Dana, - - -	691	19	24	14	Webster, - -	1403	8	31	15
Douglas, ⁵ - -	1617	17	22	16	Westboro', ¹³	1658	22	30	32
Dudley, - - -	1352	5	23	12	W. Boylston,	1187	8	33	18
Fitchburg, -	2604	30	88	37	Westminster,	1645	14	13	30
Gardner, - -	1260	12	31	30	Winchendon,	1754	19	41	25
Grafton, - -	2943	47	35	24	Worcester, -	7497	84	44	144
Hardwick, - -	1789	19	50	25		95,313	835	1543	1369
Harvard, - -	1571	13	20	21	HAMPSHIRE.				
Holden, - - -	1874	17	46	25	Amherst, ¹⁴ -	2550	18	78	65
Hubbardston, -	1784	27	52	24	Belchertown,	2554	45	40	36
Lancaster, - -	2019	12	26	39	Chesterfield, -	1132	4	6	12
Leicester, - -	1707	18	28	26	Cummington,	1237	2	11	15
Leominster, ⁶ -	2069	14	45	40	Easthampton, ¹⁵	717	7	13	16
Lunenburg, - -	1272	7	9	19	Enfield, - - -	976	6	29	15
Mendon, - - -	3524	10	4	38	Goshen, - - -	556	4	13	13
Milford, - - -	1773	26	72	37	Granby, - - -	971	3	11	26
Millbury, ⁷ - -	2171	14	58	13	Greenwich, - -	824	9	20	10

¹ The return is not certified by town clerk.² "During the last six months more births have been entered upon the record than had been recorded for forty years before."³ The births were probably more numerous. It is difficult to get returns.⁴ "There have been but few births, deaths or marriages recorded for ten years."⁵ See Appendix of Letters.⁶ The town clerk suggests a provision of law that every town clerk who makes a correct return be paid therefor \$5.00.⁷ The clerk perambulated the town to ob-

tain the materials of his return, and states that it would be cheaper for him to pay the fine of \$10 than to make the requisite returns and copies.

⁸ See Appendix.⁹ Obtained by actual visit and inquiry by the clerk.¹⁰ The same remark as in Oxford.¹¹ See letter of town clerk.¹² Ditto.¹³ See Appendix.¹⁴ See Appendix.¹⁵ No record has ever been kept. See App.

TABLE II.—CONTINUED.

Cities and Towns.	Popul'n.	Marr.	Bths.	Dths.	Cities and Towns.	Popul'n.	Marr.	Bths.	Dths.
Hadley, - -	1814	-	-	-	Bernardston, ⁸	992	4	22	8
Hatfield, - -	933	16	21	11	Buckland, ⁹ -	1084	8	-	-
Middlefield, -	1717	6	15	10	Charlemont, ¹⁰	1127	6	24	20
Northampton, -	3750	16	87	94	Colrairie, ¹¹ -	1971	6	78	20
Norwich, - -	750	8	18	10	Conway, ¹² -	1409	9	8	17
Pelham, - -	956	13	8	7	Deerfield, ¹³	1912	8	-	44
Plainfield, - -	910	14	23	14	Erving, ¹⁴ -	309	-	1	8
Prescott, - -	780	8	10	7	Gill, - - -	798	6	17	20
South Hadley,	1458	15	40	31	Greenfield, -	1756	-	-	-
Southampton, ¹	1157	11	23	18	Hawley, - -	977	3	10	10
Ware, ² - - -	1890	19	1	42	Heath, ¹⁵ - -	895	4	20	10
Westhampton,	759	3	11	14	Leverett, - -	875	10	10	17
Williamsburg,	1309	19	23	22	Leyden, - -	632	12	20	5
Worthington, ³	1197	10	34	30	Monroe, - -	282	-	10	6
	30,897	256	535	518	Montague, ¹⁶ -	1255	2	-	18
HAMPDEN.					New Salem, -	1305	11	9	12
Blandford, - -	1427	17	42	26	Northfield, ¹⁷ -	1673	1	21	3
Brimfield, - -	1419	6	2	30	Orange, - -	1501	6	7	14
Chester, - -	1632	19	25	14	Rowe, - -	703	7	19	14
Granville, - -	1414	7	-	26	Shelburne, ¹⁸ -	1022	4	16	25
Holland, - -	423	2	1	-	Shutesbury, -	987	10	3	4
Longmeadow,	1270	3	7	25	Sunderland, -	719	9	8	10
Ludlow, - -	1268	9	24	21	Warwick, - -	1071	11	12	29
Monson, - -	2151	34	28	52	Wendell, ¹⁹ -	875	13	20	15
Montgomery, -	740	8	8	8	Whateley, -	1072	7	15	9
Palmer, - -	2139	-	-	-		28,812	176	354	358
Russell, - -	955	2	4	6	BERKSHIRE.				
Southwick, ⁴ -	1214	11	32	21	Adams, - -	3703	-	-	-
Springfield, ⁵	10,985	128	none	none	Alford, - -	481	2	9	11
Tolland, ⁶ - -	627	4	7	15	Becket, - -	1342	8	12	13
Wales, - - -	686	4	18	20	Cheshire, - -	985	-	-	-
Westfield, - -	3526	23	66	53	Clarksburg, -	370	2	9	4
W. Springfield,	3626	16	1	29	Dalton, - -	1255	6	37	14
Wilbraham, -	1864	6	3	11	Egremont, -	1038	4	16	11
	37,366	299	268	357	Florida, - -	441	-	2	2
FRANKLIN.					Gt. Barrington,	2704	3	-	15
Ashfield, ⁷ - -	1610	19	4	20	Hancock, - -	922	-	7	13
					Hinsdale, - -	955	4	27	16

¹ See Appendix.² The entire return is in the Appendix.³ No record is kept of births and deaths.⁴ Ditto.⁵ This the town clerk certifies to be the whole record of this town of more than 10,000 inhabitants! See Appendix.⁶ The same Remarks as in Southwick.⁷ No attention is paid to making returns of deaths or births to the town clerk.⁸ Same as above. "Town clerks should be paid for making returns."⁹ No record has been kept.¹⁰ "Many marriages are solemnized in Vt."¹¹ No record of births or dths. has been kept.¹² "Only one clergyman has made a return of marriages." "But little attention is given by parents to making returns."¹³ "No return of deaths to town clerk."¹⁴ "Great neglect through the town. No return of marriages or deaths, and only one birth."¹⁵ See Appendix.¹⁶ "The law is disregarded."¹⁷ "Great remissness in making returns."¹⁸ "There is not more than one in ten of the inhabitants of the town aware of the existence of the law requiring them to make a return of births and deaths."—"Until the law is altered, and then enforced by adequate penalties, the returns cannot be relied on."¹⁹ The clerk complains of great neglect of the law, and says that the remedy is for the Legislature "to cause the fines to be collected."

TABLE II.—CONTINUED.

Cities and Towns.	Popul'n.	Marr.	Bths.	Dths.	Cities and Towns.	Popul'n.	Marr.	Bths.	Dths.
Lanesborough,	1140	8	-	11	Sharon, - -	1076	8	1	26
Lee, - - -	2428	15	57	38	Stoughton, -	2142	26	-	8
Lenox, - - -	1313	4	6	13	Walpole, - -	1491	16	1	25
Mt. Washing'tn,	438	1	12	5	Weymouth, -	3738	39	7	17
New Ashford,	227	2	2	3	Wrentham, ⁴ -	2015	23	13	16
N. Marlboro', -	1682	-	4	15					
Otis, - - -	1177	7	-	23		53,140	407	445	682
Peru, - - -	576	2	12	12	BRISTOL.				
Pittsfield, - -	3747	4	51	51	Attleborough, ⁵	3585	26	3	1
Richmond, - -	1097	4	12	10	Berkley, ⁶ - -	886	10	20	13
Sandisfield, -	1464	5	1	-	Dartmouth, -	4135	24	2	1
Savoy, - - -	915	4	1	1	Dighton, - -	1378	7	-	22
Sheffield, - -	2322	10	-	48	Easton, - -	2074	12	4	1
Stockbridge, -	1992	-	-	-	Fairhaven, ⁷ -	3951	47	170	35
Tyringham, -	1477	4	8	6	Fall River, ⁸ -	6738	120	307	135
Washington, -	991	3	24	11	Freetown, -	1772	-	-	-
W. Stockb'dge,	1448	9	2	10	Mansfield, ⁹ -	1382	11	3	23
Windsor, - - -	897	-	-	-	N. Bedford, ¹⁰	12,087	90	5	-
Williamstown,	2153	10	33	31	Norton, - -	1545	9	11	5
Boston Corner, ¹	65	-	-	-	Pawtucket, ¹¹ -	2184	14	-	-
					Raynham, ¹² -	1329	4	3	26
	41,745	121	344	387	Rehoboth, -	2169	35	46	31
NORFOLK.					Seekonk, ¹³ -	1996	13	-	1
Bellingham, -	1055	11	19	24	Somerset, - -	1005	4	1	2
Braintree, - -	2168	24	27	23	Swanzy, ¹⁴ -	1484	17	-	-
Brookline, - -	1365	5	6	8	Taunton, - -	7645	54	1	64
Canton, ² - - -	1995	11	7	19	Westport, -	2820	-	-	-
Cohasset, - -	1471	8	31	28					
Dedham, - - -	3290	31	96	63		60,165	497	576	360
Dorchester, -	4875	46	13	80	PLYMOUTH.				
Dover, - - -	520	3	3	15	Abington, -	3214	37	120	64
Foxborough, -	1298	7	43	37	Bridgewater, -	2131	15	65	37
Franklin, - -	1717	9	30	21	Carver, - - -	995	7	10	15
Medfield, - -	883	6	9	16	Duxbury, - -	2798	35	52	33
Medway, - - -	2043	23	6	24	E. Bridgewater,	1950	11	54	23
Milton, ³ - - -	1822	12	7	50	Halifax, - -	734	5	22	14
Needham, - -	1488	7	8	28	Hanson, - - -	1040	-	-	-
Quincy, - - -	3486	20	4	46	Hanover, - -	1488	13	47	10
Randolph, - -	3213	23	107	64	Hingham, - -	3564	29	102	55
Roxbury, - -	9089	49	7	44	Hull, - - -	231	1	5	1

¹ No return required.² See Appendix.³ See Appendix.⁴ See Appendix.⁵ "Great inattention is manifested in regard to making returns of births and deaths to town clerk."⁶ The clerk suggests the importance of requiring parents and others to make more frequent and speedy returns to the town clerk.⁷ The returns of marriages are not made to town clerk in season for his return to the

Secretary.

⁸ See Appendix.⁹ No births or deaths returned to town clerk. He relies on other information.¹⁰ See Appendix.¹¹ No births and deaths returned to town clerk.¹² "Returns very imperfect."¹³ The clerk estimates the deaths at 40 and the births at 60. 23 couples have been published.¹⁴ No births and deaths returned to town clerk.

TABLE II.—CONTINUED.

Cities and Towns.	Popul'n.	Marr.	Bths.	Dths.	Cities and Towns.	Popul'n.	Marr.	Bths.	Dths.
Kingston, - -	1440	10	30	35	Harwich, - -	2930	42	47	11
Marshfield, ¹ -	1761	30	45	55	Orleans, - -	1974	19	45	26
Middleborough,	5085	32	25	13	Provincetown,	2122	24	85	59
N. Bridgewater, ²	2616	20	85	52	Sandwich, -	3719	14	89	18
Pembroke, ³ -	1258	7	31	30	Truro, - - -	1920	-	-	-
Plymouth, ⁴ -	5281	20	34	57	Wellfleet, ⁹ -	2377	10	20	32
Plympton, ⁵ -	831	5	20	18	Yarmouth, -	2554	11	61	51
Rochester, -	3864	35	65	34	Marshpee, ¹⁰ -	309	-	-	-
Scituate, - -	3886	19	35	60					
Wareham, - -	2002	13	46	25		32,548	223	454	397
W. Bridgewater, ⁶	1201	12	30	12	DUKE'S.				
	47,373	356	923	643	Chilmark, - -	702	7	12	8
BARNSTA'L.					Edgartown, -	1736	12	34	26
Barnstable, -	4301	25	18	26	Tisbury, - -	1520	11	55	22
Brewster, - -	1522	11	22	26		3958	30	101	56
Chatham, - -	2334	22	5	70	NANTUCK'T.				
Dennis, ⁷ - -	2942	19	48	21	Nantucket, ¹¹ -	9012	59	462	195
Eastham, ⁸ - -	955	7	14	21	D. C. and N.				
Falmouth, - -	2589	19	-	36	TOTAL, -	12,970	89	563	251

¹ See Appendix.² "A true return, so far as I have been able to obtain information."³ The people make few or no returns.⁴ See Appendix.⁵ In this town the record is kept with great care, but the people make no returns to the town clerk. That officer collects it himself, with a fidelity worthy of all praise.⁶ See Appendix.⁷ "It is customary for the town clerk to go through the town and collect the information himself."⁸ "The registration laws are so loose and vague, that our citizens have been in the habit of disobeying them altogether."

"I have applied personally for the information this year, expecting that our next Legislature will alter and amend the laws."

⁹ "Physicians should be compelled to make returns of deaths and the causes of death."¹⁰ No return required.¹¹ "The above I believe to be a correct list, as near as I can collect them from physicians and sextons."

AGGREGATE,

*Showing the whole number of Deaths, &c. returned for the two years of
1842 and 1843.*

COUNTIES.	MARRIAGES.		BIRTHS.		DEATHS.		REMARKS.
	1842	1843	1842	1843	1842	1843	
Suffolk,	768	784	101	91	2006	2343	It is manifest from this Table, that the Returns cannot be relied upon as showing the correct number of births, marriages or deaths. The real number of deaths does not, of course, exceed that of births in any county; nor is the sterility of any county so frightful as might appear from the Nantucket return of 1842. There is, however, a perceptible improvement in the Returns of 1843.
Essex,	683	742	1242	1724	1220	1421	
Middlesex,	1037	1022	992	930	1549	1598	
Worcester,	900	835	1275	1543	1287	1369	
Hampshire,	239	256	619	535	377	518	
Hampden,	358	299	252	268	295	357	
Franklin,	177	176	454	354	353	358	
Berkshire,	157	121	548	344	450	387	
Norfolk,	370	407	645	445	510	682	
Bristol,	415	497	984	576	431	360	
Plymouth,	297	356	706	923	453	643	
Barnstable,	216	223	689	454	371	397	
Duke's Co.	23	30	64	101	58	56	
Nantucket,	102	59	0	462	184	195	
Increase of returns in 1843 over those of the previous year.	5742	5807	8471	8750	9544	10,684	
	{					9544	
					8471		1140
				279 more births returned in 1843 than in 1842.			
		5742					
		65	more marriages returned in 1843 than in 1842.				

APPENDIX.

BOSTON, May 31, 1843.

DEAR SIR,—I herewith send you the return of the births, marriages and deaths, in the city of Boston, as received and recorded. In the return of marriages the names are not given, as it is impossible to record and give a copy of the same within the time prescribed by law. The statute requires the clergymen and magistrates who solemnize marriages, to return a list of the same yearly, in the month of April, which some do; but the most of them not until May, and many of them late in the month, and some in the succeeding months. It would be better to have the returns begin the 1st of January and close the 31st December, in each year,—then they would be more perfect.

The recording of births is very much neglected by parents. A whole family of children is often brought in, and a record made of them after the lapse of twenty years and more.

The marriages, births and deaths have been kept in separate books in this city ever since the establishment of the city government, and for many years before that time.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. F. McCLEARY, *City Clerk.*

JOHN A. BOLLES, Esq., *Secretary of the Commonwealth, &c.*

ESSEX, May 27, 1843.

DEAR SIR,—In obedience to your instructions, and in conformity to the Act of March 3, 1842, I herewith transmit the annual return of births, marriages and deaths, which have taken place in the town of Essex during the year ending May 1, 1843, also a certified copy of the clerk's record of the same; but the record, of which I now forward a transcript, is one made by me since the first of the present month. I was chosen to the office of clerk the present year, for the first time, and found by examining the record that *but seven births and eleven deaths had been recorded for eighteen years*; none the past year.

Immediately upon the receipt of your circular of April 10, I posted notices in different parts of the town, stating the substance of the Act of March 3, 1842, also of the section of the Revised Statutes, requiring parents and others to give notice to the clerk, &c., and earnestly requested all those in whose families there had been any birth or death the past year, to furnish me with

the necessary information, on or before a given time, which time came and passed, but no attention whatever was paid to the requirements of law, or to the request, except in a very few instances. I have since, by aid of the sexton, physician and others, ascertained in what families there had been any births or deaths, and by visiting the parents or friends myself, (in almost every instance,) have obtained from them the facts as now recorded, which I believe to be minutely correct, but don't know *whether such a record will be considered authentic, or not.*

The transcript of the marriage record herewith forwarded, does not furnish, perhaps, all the information you might desire or expect, but I shall endeavor to have it in better shape another year. The acts requiring a record to be kept, and an annual return to be made, of births, marriages and deaths, will, I doubt not, be attended with much general benefit; but it seems to me that *some new law will be necessary to compel parents* and others to furnish town clerks with the necessary information and in the proper time. The present law upon that point is with us a dead letter, and will probably remain so, as there seems to be no disposition to heed it at all; indeed, *there was some unwillingness manifested to give the clerk the needful information after he had travelled some miles to obtain it.*

I hope, Sir, if the law of March 3, 1842, is to remain in force, that some new act will be passed, which will awaken parents and others to a sense of their duty.

Excuse the liberty I have taken in addressing these lines to you, and accept the assurance of my esteem.

A. L. BURNHAM, *Town Clerk.*

To JOHN A. BOLLES, Esq., Secretary of the Commonwealth.

GLOUCESTER, *May 27, 1843.*

JOHN A. BOLLES, Esq.: DEAR SIR,—I have, with much pains, been able to obtain the information comprised in the foregoing return. * * *

* * * It is my wish that some more compulsory law should be enacted to remedy the evil.

I am, Sir, your humble servant,

WM. SAVILLE, *Town Clerk.*

CAMBRIDGE, *May 21, 1843.*

To the Secretary of the Commonwealth:—Enclosed you have certain returns, required by law. They are less perfect than could be desired, but as perfect as I have the means to make them. The town records came into my custody but a few weeks since, and, during the interval which has elapsed, other public and imperative duties have prevented me from rendering them more complete. I purpose to procure immediately a new set of record-books, and to take such measures to ensure full and perfect records, as shall enable myself,

or my successor, to approach much more nearly, in 1844, to the degree of accuracy contemplated by the statute.

Respectfully, &c.

LUCIUS R. PAIGE.

CHELMSFORD.

As it is impossible to give anything like a full return, a specimen only is here given, which is sufficient to show the *manner* in which entries are made. Deaths are recorded in the same way. It has been customary for many years to make the entries of marriages by recording the certificate of the clergyman or magistrate, just as given in; of course there is a variety of forms used. The *marriages*, I doubt not, *are all* returned in *some form*.

Last year I spent considerable time in trying to collect the necessary materials to form as correct a return as possible. *This* year I have confined myself *wholly to the returns received*. My reasons for doing so are briefly these: as I had advertised in four public places, in as many different sections of the town, previous to making my return last year, stating the substance of the statute, and the duties and forfeitures of parents, guardians and town clerks, under its provisions; also urging the faithful discharge of its duties on the part of *parents*, in order to enable others to discharge their duty; and as there has been such a gross neglect on their part, especially as it concerns *deaths*, I thought it was best that the proper department should know the exact state of things as they now exist, though by so doing I should subject myself to the penalty of the law. I have no other apology to offer for the neglect of my duty than what is implied in the foregoing.

E. F. WEBSTER, *Town Clerk*.

LEXINGTON.

Number of Births as per record,	-	-	-	-	-	1
Number of Marriages as per record,	-	-	-	-	-	11
Number of Deaths as per record,	-	-	-	-	-	—

Information derived from other sources than records, show that there has been at least twenty-three deaths during said year—diseases or cause of death to me unknown.

The number of births to me unknown. I posted notice the last year, requesting the inhabitants to bring in the number of births, deaths, &c., but to no purpose.

It appears to me, if the secretary of state should furnish the several town clerks in the state, with blanks, to be posted up in several places in each town, with the law attached to the same, that the object might be attained.

A true copy of record. Attest:

JOHN MULLIKEN, *Town Clerk*.

MEDFORD, *May 30, 1843.*

SIR,—Your circular of April 10, 1843, as also copy of report submitted to the Legislature of Massachusetts, Feb. 27, 1843, concerning the registry of births, marriages and deaths, were duly received and examined. The suggestions contained in each I consider very appropriate and needful, calculated to excite more general regard to the subjects referred to, which seem to have been almost lost on public attention for the last half century.

Our own town records show a very decided and declining neglect from about the year 1800 to 1834, in which year a new town clerk was elected, (Mr. Wm. D. Fitch,) who, amongst other reforms just coming into vogue at that time, called upon the inhabitants (at the same time publishing the old law, with regard to registration,) to walk up and do the needful, and the result was a very general return of births and deaths which had occurred in previous years.

In 1836, I had the honor to be elected clerk of Medford, at which time the Revised Statutes were published, and some alteration being made therein of the registry laws, I issued a notice relative thereto, and a large number of entries of births and deaths were consequently made, which, however, annually continued to lessen till 1841, in which year only ten births and deaths were entered for record at my office.

On the receipt of the circular of the secretary of the commonwealth, relative to the returns of births, marriages and deaths, by town clerks, under the Act of March, 1842, I posted notices, and called upon physicians and others, in order to glean what I could from these sources, to make up a return in compliance with the law, but the information sought was not very fully responded to, either from a lack of interest by community in the subject, or from want of data by physicians to fill the blanks which I placed in their hands—therefore the return made by me was incomplete.

The present year, on the receipt of your letter of instructions, I caused a circular (a copy of which I shall enclose,) to be placed in the hands of each family in town, the result of which has been the entering of a considerable number of births and deaths over former years, many of which occurred in previous years.

Your suggestion that the exaction of the penalty for neglect would give efficacy to the statute, &c., I have duly considered, and doubt not would produce the desired effect in many instances. But, Sir, in a community like ours, the laws being generally regarded when known, and the doctrine of persuasion predominating very largely over coercion, I deemed it most expedient to renewedly notify the inhabitants of their liabilities, before enforcing the law, which I shall now feel at liberty to do in any known case of neglect.

I have delayed making the accompanying returns to this late period, in order to obtain as much information on the subjects referred to as possible, and yet they are quite unsatisfactory, so far as regards births and deaths. Physicians, to whom I am mainly indebted for a list of deaths, do not always know the age of their patients, and in many cases of adult males not even their occupations.

If no other alteration of our present registration laws are made, I am of opinion that the object contemplated by them would be promoted by making it the duty of physicians to make returns to town clerks of all deaths occurring in their practice, with the particulars required by the existing statute.

Your remarks in report, on the laws of the commonwealth concerning registration, are to the point, and must be acquiesced in by every candid mind.

The outlines of a statute to regulate corporate registration, as sketched and submitted in your report, I fully approve ; being clearly stated, may be readily understood by all classes in community ; the penalties annexed for neglect are such as would be likely to cause every one to avoid their infliction, especially if a *moiety* of the *fine* should go to the informant or prosecutor.

The forms prescribed for registration are such as should be adopted, if an alteration in the law is made agreeably to your views.

The forms of entry in the town of Medford books of record, are such as answer the present requirements of law, which appear to me very far short of the design, and certainly inadequate to furnish the desired information which your plan contemplates, and which the growth and mixed character of the population of the country requires to be collected, for general and important purposes.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

OLIVER BLAKE, *Town Clerk of Medford.*

JOHN A. BOLLES, Esq., *Secretary of the Commonwealth of Mass.*

NATICK, May 15, 1843.

HON. JOHN A. BOLLES : SIR,—I herewith make a return of births, marriages and deaths, together with a copy of the records of the town of Natick, in relation to this subject, for the past year. The entries of births, marriages and deaths, ever since the American Revolution, have been recorded promiscuously, as the information has been obtained by the various town clerks, up to this day. Great pains have been taken the past year, by the town clerk, to collect correct information in relation to the subject of inquiry, and with all the pains so taken, it is very doubtful, to say the least, whether all the facts have been collected. The subscriber has been town clerk in Natick for fifteen years, and he recollects *no instance* of a birth, and but *one* instance of a death, having been voluntarily communicated to him within the time by law prescribed for giving such information. If, therefore, the records of this town should be found very imperfect, the clerk only regrets that others have not been so desirous of performing the duties devolving on them, as he has to discharge the official duties belonging to the office which he fills.

I am, Sir, very respectfully, your humble servant,

CHESTER ADAMS, *Town Clerk of Natick.*

BOLTON, *May 26, 1843.*

HON. JOHN A. BOLLES : DEAR SIR,—In compliance with your request, I transmit a copy of the records of births, marriages and deaths, of the town of Bolton, for the year past, ending May 1, 1843.

All marriages that are solemnized in town, are annually handed in and recorded, but am sorry to say little attention has been paid to recording the births and deaths, as you will perceive by this copy, and it was with much difficulty that I obtained the necessary information to fill out the blank in the manner I have, which is not complete, but for the future will endeavor to make it more perfect. Of the forty-two births in town, only two are on record.

HUMPHREY BARRETT, *Town Clerk.*

EAST DOUGLAS, *May 18, 1843.*

DEAR SIR,—I have endeavored to comply with the Act of 1842. I am aware that the return is very imperfect ; but, Sir, it is chargeable to the inefficiency of the Act itself. I regard this matter as one of great importance, and hope that your report or plan of registry will become a law. This would enable the town clerks to prepare a clear and intelligible record. As the law now is, no safe conclusions can be drawn.

Yours respectfully, F. BATCHELLER, *Town Clerk.*

JOHN A. BOLLES, *Secretary.*

HARDWICK, *May 22, 1843.*

HON. JOHN A. BOLLES : SIR,—When I handed to Mr. Bigelow, last year, the return of deaths and marriages from this town, and promised I would “endeavor to get returns of births in future,” my reliance was placed on the facts which I might obtain from my medical brethren. I regret that I have been able to obtain so little assistance from this source.

In a town like this, it is not very difficult to keep an accurate record of the *deaths*, but I know not how to procure the facts which would enable me to keep such a record of *births*. No one has returned to me, to be recorded, a birth which took place in the year ending May 1, 1843. I requested my neighbor, Dr. Wardwell, a year ago, to keep, for my use, a list of the births where he was called in, and he now tells me the number of cases is 20, but he cannot tell me the parents' names nor the sexes of the children. Dr. Willis has attended 3 cases, at all of which males were born, and one was stillborn. I hear of 3 other cases, attended by two other practitioners. In 24 cases which I have attended myself, there have been 8 males and 16 females born ; 2 of the males were stillborn.

I am by no means certain that “a few *exactions* of the *penalty* would give *universal efficacy* to the *statute*.”

Among our hills, it has always appeared to me, that people were easier led than driven, and I think the duties of a town clerk sufficiently onerous and per-

plexing without making him a prosecuting officer. I should rejoice if an accurate registry could be made, and would do all in my power to promote it.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH STONE, *Town Clerk.*

SOUTHBOROUGH, *June 5, 1843.*

To the Secretary of the Commonwealth: DEAR SIR,—This return would have been made and forwarded in due time if sickness had not prevented me.

I *know* there has been 23 births in Southborough from May 1, 1842 up to May 1, 1843, though not more than 6 of those births have been recorded. Such has been the delinquency of our citizens. But we design that for the coming year, in this town, the law shall be strictly complied with, in order to enable the town clerk to make out his return full and complete.

Your obedient servant, JOEL BURNETT.

STERLING, *May 22, 1843.*

JOHN A. BOLLES, Esq., *Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:*

SIR,—Inclosed are the returns of marriages, births and deaths, in the town of Sterling, as recorded.

I take the liberty, Sir, to throw into the packet a rough memorandum, from which I meant to have expressed my ideas of the existing laws on the subject, but I was taken sick at the time and could not do it. I do it more for an apology for my defective returns, than with any expectation of its affording any useful information, although if clerks of towns would name what *they* consider obstacles in making their returns, although not always very weighty, there might *some* good come from it.

Six years ago, I found the town records, on these subjects, quite unsatisfactory to me, and I procured three blank books, as you recommend, Sir, excepting the lining, which I highly approve of, and the volumes being the right size I shall get them lined without delay.

I feel a satisfaction in spending my time to do anything right, if I have the means of so doing, and I presume many others have the same disposition. I really think the Legislature have something to do, before so desirable an object can be attained.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. H. BLOOD, *Clerk of the Town of Sterling.*

Memorandum.—The law is so defective, that it never can effect anything, in my opinion, until it is revised.

Who is to complain of delinquents for neglecting to return to town clerks, births and deaths? Town clerks will not be willing to risk their popularity to do it. Sextons will make lame returns of deaths, their cause, &c.

On account of births, let midwives have some agency in the matter, leaving parents to return names, &c. On account of deaths, physicians only will be

able properly to give causes, &c. I understand much of the new law is strongly recommended by physicians, to form, as I presume, valuable statistics, and what can they make from such miserable returns.

But, one great defect is, that the last six months there is no obligation on any one to return a single birth or death, say previous to 1st May.

Marriages.—From 1st April to 1st May there will be no return for the year [in which the town clerk makes his return?]

In the new law there are imposed considerable duties, and penalties affixed; but not a cent compensation for duties performed, &c.

Would it not be well to make it the duty of town treasurers to complain of delinquents, in making returns to town clerks?

There is quite a difference between volunteering our services and acting in conformity with an injunction of law.

NORTH BROOKFIELD, *May 2, 1843.*

JOHN A. BOLLES, Esq., *Secretary of the Commonwealth, Boston:*

DEAR SIR,—Your circular under date of April 10th, 1843, with blank returns, forms, &c. came duly to hand. In conformity with instructions contained in the same, I herewith inclose returns of births, marriages and deaths, for the year ending the first inst., so far as I was able to make them out from my records; but so imperfect are they, owing to the delinquency of heads of families in *their* reports, that the return is nearly useless. Besides this negligence on the part of parents, &c. there are *other* difficulties, which I think will render it impossible to fill the blanks with that degree of accuracy which is desirable, and I will state some of them. 1st. Births.—The first column is for number, No. 1, No. 2, &c. to record the order in which they occur. This cannot be done, for parents cannot report them until they are *named*, and one man will perhaps name and report his child the first week, while another will not name his child for six or eight months, so that if it occurs in the last half of the year, it will probably not be reported and recorded until into the next year; this destroys all order, both in numbers and dates. I should think I had recorded, during the year now just ended, 25 or 30 births, but, as you will see by the return, only two of them occurred during that year—so that the most that can be done is to record and report them in the order in which they are *reported* to the clerk, without any reference whatever to order of date.

2. Marriages.—The same objections exist in *this* record, as to order of date and number. One clergyman, perhaps, will marry a couple and send his certificate to the clerk the same day or very soon. Another clergyman will join a couple in marriage at the same time, or before, and keep back his certificate a month or two, and then send it in, and it will be recorded when received. A third will not report his marriages until the end of the year, which you see jumbles them all out of order; moreover, the end of the year appointed by law for ministers and justices to make their return to the clerks, does not cor-

respond with the time when the clerks are now required to make *their* return ; by which discrepancy, many marriages which take place immediately preceding the 1st of May, cannot be returned by the clerk. The law requires the clerk to record all certificates “forthwith,” upon their being handed in. Again—how are their ages to be ascertained ? and by whom ? particularly old maids. When there is a law to oblige them to tell their ages to the ministers, perhaps they will render, but not before. Their color—how is that to be reported ? Shall any one be obliged to trace back their descent to Shem, Ham and Japhet ? or will you be content with a statement that “he or she is ‘very black,’ or ‘pretty considerable black,’ or ‘rather dark,’ or ‘sandy,’ or ‘light complexioned ;’ ” these questions, perhaps, don’t concern a clerk, though I am ignorant upon whom the duty would fall.

Record of Deaths.—These can generally be ascertained by the clerk, if he will inquire of the bell-ringer, the name, age, &c., and of the doctor what the disease was ; but as for their being reported by the head of a family, I never knew the instance during the seven years of my clerkship.

Then, in addition to all these impossibilities and difficulties, there is another which operates, and would, to some extent, if all the others were removed,—and that is the want of adequate compensation, for no man can afford to make the records and returns that are now required, for the present legal fees, even with all possible facilities.

Yours, respectfully, CHAS. ADAMS, JR.

WESTBOROUGH, *May* 12, 1843.

DEAR SIR,—I herewith make my returns, and as correctly as possible from the materials I have been able to gather ; have been obliged to call upon clergymen, physicians and midwives, to enable me to accomplish so much : and you see at once that it cannot be correct, as there is an increase of population in this town, which this return disproves. A correct registration cannot be accomplished under present circumstances. I have repeatedly called upon the town in their meetings, and posted the *laws*, which are a “terror to evil doers,” but they heed it not ; therefore, I think if Massachusetts intends accomplishing the object, a new *code* of laws upon the subject must be made, whereby either greater penalties, or give officers or registrars power or *pay*, (which seems to be the way to accomplish an object,) to go through the town annually, and see that parents and householders make their true returns. Births—there are some who employ physicians from other towns, which I cannot learn, and you will see the sex of some I have not given, nor cannot, unless I go to their houses, which as yet I am not obliged to do. Marriages—if other towns make true returns you will have them ; in this town 27 were published—return 22 married ; 3 of 22 were not published here—so that you have but 19 of the 27 who were published in this town. Deaths—I have requested the sexton to keep a record of his burials, with name, age, &c., which he will do, and another year that return will be made correctly. I am pleased with your re-

port ; it is bringing the subject immediately before the people, and will soon accomplish the object. Whether in the marriage department the *ages* of the ladies will be found correct, as records are so deficient, is rather doubtful, as 28 is the extreme. Instead of a correct and "true copy" of record of births, I make a "return" as full and complete as possible, and run the risk of "penalty." Hoping your efforts will prove successful,

I am truly yours, E. M. PHILLIPS.

AMHERST, *May 22, 1843.*

JOHN A. BOLLES, Esq. : SIR,—Accompanying this is a return of the births, marriages and deaths, in this town, for the year ending May 1, 1843, with a copy of the records of each, certified as required by the statute. For five years only has a record of deaths been kept in this office, and those have been entered, as they have transpired and came to my knowledge, in the form which you have prescribed, excepting the occupation, which was added last year, according to the requisition of the law. Clergymen were not in the habit of certifying the marriages solemnized by them, yearly, till 1837. Notice was that year issued from this office to each of them, notifying them of the existing laws upon that subject and that they must be complied with, and they have since that time yearly conformed to the law. One of the reverend gentlemen sent in a certificate of 211 couple married by him in this town within 30 years. This certificate was entered on the record and covered six pages, each couple being entered on a single line. That certificate we consider invaluable, and it has already been referred to, for information of importance, several times. The record of marriages is kept according to the form, a copy of which accompanies the return. One or two pages are opened for each minister in the town, and the marriages which he certifies that he has officiated at, are entered year after year, on the same page. The heading of each page is the same as the copy now sent to you. In this manner of entering on the record, we have, at a birds-eye view, the marriages by each clergyman in each year. As the law requires the clergyman to certify only to April 1, an additional certificate for the month of April was requested and cheerfully complied with. The return of marriages include only those which have been certified to and entered on the records. On the return of marriages you will find a statement of the publishments in this place, by which we find that there were ten couple who were probably married in other places, and certified to the clerks of those towns and not to this office. The utility of a correct registry of marriages is daily growing more apparent, especially to those interested in proving marriages for pensioned widows.

The record of births was kept in the manner which you have suggested. You will perceive that a large number of parents have not *yet* given names to their children, though some of them are nearly one year of age. On the return of births you will find a table of them arranged monthly, male and female. If a similar table was prepared for all the returns of births in the state, it

might aid the study of the physiologist to ascertain how far the animal propensities of man may be periodical, or what effect our seasons may have upon those propensities.

Yours, respectfully, S. C. CARTER.

EASTHAMPTON, *May* 25, 1843.

MR. BOLLES: SIR,—I send you herewith the returns of the births, marriages and deaths, which have taken place in Easthampton for the year ending May 1, 1843. My apology for not sending a certified copy of my record, is that there never has been any record of births, marriages and deaths kept in this town. I have been clerk of this town eight years, and as there had not been any record kept previous to that time, neither had any book been provided for keeping such records, therefore I have kept none.

The registration of births, &c. has been very much neglected in this as well as in other towns; the law has been “a mere dead letter;” there has not been *one* birth or death sent to the clerk to be recorded for eight years. Our minister has in but one or two instances handed in a list of marriages since I have been clerk, but he has always been willing to give information when called upon. I am under great obligations to him and our physician for information that has enabled me to make my return what it is; the information that I have obtained from them, together with the time that I have spent, has enabled me to make my return nearly correct.

I should have procured a book or books for the records the year past, but I did not know in what shape to have them “got up” until I received your letter of instructions. I shall soon be prepared to keep the records as they ought to be kept.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EBEN’R FERRY, *Town Clerk of Easthampton.*

SOUTHAMPTON.

No minister of the gospel or justice of the peace has made any return to me of marriages by them solemnized during the past year, and the above return is made from personal knowledge and my record of publishments. I have been clerk of this town for the last seven years, and not more than four returns of marriages have been made to me during that time. Rev. Mr. White has solemnized nearly all the marriages in this town during said seven years, and though often requested by me to make such returns, has not done it in one solitary instance, nor has he done it at all; and if I should apply the provisions of law in his case, I should, in the estimation of the most of this community, be worthy of *stripes*, if not of *death*.

Very few parents have made returns of births; they seem to be astonished beyond measure when informed that the law requires such action on their part.

ELISHA EDWARDS, *Town Clerk.*

WARE.

JOHN A. BOLLES, Esq. : DEAR SIR,—You will see by this return that it is very much wanting in particulars, but it is as much so as can be from returns made me. The number of marriages and deaths are nearly or quite correct ; probably measures will be taken in future to bring parents and others to their duty in making returns to the clerk. There have been returns of more parents of the births of their children during the year past, but which occurred before the last year.

Respectfully, LEWIS DEMOND.

SPRINGFIELD, May 29, 1843.

SIR,—With this you find the return sent me by you a few weeks since. As town clerk, I regret that I am obliged to return it to you almost as much of a blank as it came to me. There has been no return made to me the past year of births or deaths, and by the records of the town I find there has been but very few returned the past fifteen years. As to marriages, I return you all that have been returned to me, although I have published half as many more. There must be one of three causes why there are not more returned, viz. : the parties after being published must have changed their minds and backed out—or they must have gone out of town to get married—or the clergy and justices of the peace have neglected to make return. The last cause I should think the most likely. I could not return half as many married as I have, had I not written to four of our clergy, and told them that in my opinion not only the laws of God but the laws of man ought to be obeyed, and requested them to make their returns of marriages as the law provides.

Respectfully yours, &c.

JOSEPH INGRAHAM, *Town Clerk.*

HON. J. A. BOLLES, *Secretary State, Boston, Mass.*

HEATH, May 24, 1843.

TO HON. JOHN A. BOLLES : DEAR SIR,—I send you my return of births, deaths and marriages as correct as I can get them. The people in this town have been very backward in observing the law in this respect. The deaths which I send you I have been obliged to get as I could, and most of the births I took from our physician's record. I have a correct account of all deaths but one, (a Mrs. Fairbanks, an old lady,) and of all the marriages ; the births are imperfectly returned.

By giving the subject more attention, and posting copies of the law in different parts of the town, I trust another year the returns from this town will be correct.

I am, very respectfully, yours,

LYSANDER M. WARD, *Town Clerk of Heath.*

FALL RIVER, May 25, 1843.

Secretary of the Commonwealth: DEAR SIR,—I send herewith my returns of births, marriages and deaths, but I cannot conscientiously permit them to go without explanation or comment. I have signed them as required, and by so doing the law makes me say what I *know* to be *untrue*; still, I haven't the *prima facie* evidence to exhibit to the contrary to show the incorrectness of the returns. For instance, the return signed by me says, without qualification, that the "whole number of births in the town, for the year ending May 1, 1843," is "307." Now I feel fully confident in my own mind that the *whole* number of births has not come to my knowledge; and so with regard to the marriages and also the deaths. But we will pass from *generalities* to particulars.

Births.—Instead of being governed by my records, I have been governed exclusively by the returns of our physicians, for the number of births, all of whom, I am happy to say, (with one exception,) have been very kind and very prompt in giving the desired statistics occurring in their practice. Drs. T. and A. C. Wilbur, whose practice is extensive, have given me no information upon the subject; I was, therefore, under the necessity of estimating the number of births which they probably would have returned, which estimate is *included* in *my* return. Some of the statements gave the proportion of males and females. For instance—of 161 births, 74 were males and 87 females. It is not doubted here, but that many births occur, among the Irish portion of our population, unattended by any physician.

Marriages.—To the honor and credit of all our *stated* clergymen be it said, they have made their returns, although in one or two instances not in strict accordance with the law. These returns have been entered upon the records, and a *certified copy* thereof is herewith transmitted. There were 143 certificates of publishment issued, and the clerk is of opinion that not over a dozen or fifteen were married out of the place. Transient clergymen probably officiated in some instances, of which no return was made.

Deaths.—Although we are compelled to show a sad account of mortality here, on paper, still the story is not all told, I have taken some pains to procure information upon this subject during the past year, and have made record of the same at the time. This I have been enabled to make more perfect, particularly with reference to "disease or cause of death," by the returns of our physicians; and probably it would have been still more accurate, had it not been for the omission already referred to. Their returns have also lengthened the list considerably, which will account for the irregularity of dates in the latter part of my returns. It is supposed that many deaths occur here of persons (particularly among the young,) who were not attended by physicians, and of which we have no information.

General Remarks and Suggestions.—Our population is transient, variable, changing. Families are coming and going constantly, but more of the former than the latter,—and while this fact exists, I have not the sagacity to divine a plan of perfect accuracy in a system of registration.

It is the practice of our assessors to visit every family in town in the month of May, to get a valuation of polls and estates, &c. Now if this custom prevails in other towns, it has occurred to me that they might get the desired information upon the subject in question, tolerably accurate, with the exception of those which might move out of the state during the year. I should have some scruples, however, to adding further to their already (of late years,) increased duties.

The object aimed at by the present law depends, I think, too much upon voluntary action to be obtained. I have been asked, on seeking information, if there was any penalty if the information was not given, and on replying in the negative, I have been told it was too much trouble. There are those of this class in *all* communities—hence the foregoing opinion.

I conceive the present law to be but little short of an *imposition* upon town clerks. It compels them to perform a perplexing duty, requiring not a little of their time, without an *intimation* of any compensation either from the state or town, and, as a finishing stroke, if they do not do it they are subjected to a fine of \$10!! Verily, civilization seems to be *advancing retrograde*. *Monsieur Tonson* must have come again with his penalty of hanging and fining forty shillings. And this is not all. If a poor town clerk is so unfortunate (and I can easily conceive such a circumstance, while *he* is dependent entirely on others,) as not to have any returns to make, how can he get rid of paying his \$10, *unless he goes into bankruptcy*? The law says, “returns, or \$10.” The clerk says, “I have no returns, therefore my only alternative is to pay the fine. I partly came to the conclusion, while engaged in this business, recently, with the pressure of other business, that if the law continued without modification or amendment, and I should be town clerk another year, my return might consist of a \$10 bill.

Your intimation of prosecuting for neglect, on the part of parents, &c. relative to births and deaths, is kindly received. I beg leave, however, respectfully to decline the “*hint*.” Until the law *designates me* as its agent, to see that it is carried into execution, I shall not prosecute my neighbors and friends for a violation of it.

I hope I shall not be considered *captious* in thus freely expressing my opinion upon the several points to which I have alluded. While penning these remarks I have been in most perfect good humor, and intend them only for the benefit (if, indeed, any benefit can be derived from them,) of those who may have charge of the subject at “head-quarters.”

Truly, yours, BENJ. EARL.

P. S. One of our physicians suggests an addition to the heading of the list of deaths, viz. :—“*Place of Nativity*.”

Town Clerk's Office,
NEW BEDFORD, June 27, 1843. }

To JOHN A. BOLLES, Esq., *Secretary of the Commonwealth :*

DEAR SIR,—Enclosed are the returns of births, marriages and deaths required by the Act of March 3, 1842. You will see, at a single glance, that they are too imperfect to answer any purpose whatever. I hardly know what my duty is in relation to collecting information of this kind. I have supposed, however, that it was limited to the registry of all such cases as might be returned to me, which you will perceive have been very few. The number of marriages in this town cannot be much less than 200, and yet there has been, during the past year, but ninety returned. The number of deaths, also, I am led to believe, both from inquiry and from other sources of information, will exceed 200, and the number of births 400 ; whilst of the former none have been returned, and of the latter only 5.

The law requires the several town clerks to keep a record of “the births, marriages and deaths of all persons within their respective towns and cities which may come to their knowledge.” I have, however, supposed that this was to be understood as meaning all such as should *officially* come to their knowledge ; that is, all marriages which should be *returned*, and all births and deaths which should be *reported* to them. This has been the interpretation given to the law on this subject both by my predecessors and myself, and I have made no attempts to collect information in any other manner, from a full conviction that any means which I might be enabled to employ for this object, without the coöperation of the citizens generally, or the aid of some municipal regulations, would prove ineffectual ; and that after all the labor and exertion which would be necessary for this purpose, nothing like an approximation to the truth would be obtained.

Notwithstanding the law in relation to births and deaths has been repeatedly published here for the information of the citizens, it has in fact become a dead letter upon our statute books ; and even the law in relation to the returns of marriages is disregarded by many of our clergymen and magistrates ;—not more, probably, than one half of the whole number being made, even after repeated solicitations to do so.

It will undoubtedly be admitted by every one, that the information which the present law contemplates would be of great value, provided it could be made complete ; but from my experience, I believe it would be futile to expect such a result from its operations.

I would here state, in extenuation of my offence for neglecting to make the returns required by law, in 1842, that in consequence of the imperfect state of our records, I, immediately upon the receipt of the circular and blank for that year, set about procuring the required information from such sources as I thought would be most likely to result successfully ; and that after having prosecuted the research so far as to ascertain that there had been within the town, during the year ending May 1, 1842, at least 184 deaths and 348 births,

I was induced, in view of the difficulties which seemed to present themselves on every hand, to abandon any further voluntary efforts : and, believing it to be quite impossible for the state to obtain the required information under the operation of the existing law, and therefore that the whole plan would be abandoned in its present form, and some more adequate provisions made for the effectual accomplishment of so desirable an object, I neglected wholly to make return, supposing that from its necessarily imperfect state it would not be required. But this conclusion I was induced to abandon upon the receipt of your report on the subject, made to the legislature in February last.

A further delay has also occurred in making the returns for the present year, which I sincerely regret, and which I hope will not cause you any additional labor. It has been occasioned by my desire to hit upon some plan by which you could be furnished with a correct return from this town. But failing in this, I now transmit you copies of such records as have been made within the year, together with a return of all the births, marriages and deaths which have come to my knowledge officially.

Permit me here to express the opinion, that the present law is, in its provisions, inadequate for the accomplishment of the objects contemplated, and cannot, in its present form, be made to accomplish the end proposed.

I am, Sir, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY H. CRAPO, *Town Clerk.*

CANTON, *May 29, 1843.*

DEAR SIR,—The accompanying returns, though as full as it is in my power to make them, are far from being complete,—the deaths, with but two exceptions, having been obtained from the sexton, who seldom notes down the age or sex of the person who has died, and generally gives the date of the funeral instead of that of the death ; and the greater number of births which have been reported, since the attention of the town has been called to the subject, are those of several years back.

Agreeably to a vote of the town, notices have been posted up in the several meeting-houses, calling upon the inhabitants to comply with the requisitions of the law, an abstract of which accompanied each notice. This, it is hoped, will be the means of enabling the clerk next year to make a more full return.

There would have been less difficulty in effecting this object if the law had been more definite, or if it been provided that the compensation for registering should be paid eventually from the state treasury, as I find that some have been deterred from having their children registered through fear of the expense, thinking that the fees might be the same as for a marriage certificate,—while others, who understand that the fees are to be paid by the town, wish to save the town from what they think a useless expense. As in some towns there may be a majority of this opinion, unless some alteration is made the law will

be very easily evaded, by choosing a clerk who will disregard it, and voting to remit all fines that may be incurred. But should this not be the case, full returns cannot be expected till the law is revised, as much of the information required to make them complete may not be received by the clerk till five months, in the case of births and deaths, and, in that of marriages, eleven months, after the time allowed him has expired. And as there is no provision for making up deficiencies, what is received too late, though recorded in the town books, will never be reported.

I shall endeavor, as far as in my power, to enforce the law in the case of marriages and births, but, with regard to deaths, shall feel obliged to wait for voluntary information. This information might be very easily obtained by those who have the care of funerals, if it were made their duty to attend to it and they were allowed a compensation for the service. But I think it ought not to be expected that a town clerk should call upon any family in which he may hear that a death has taken place, to enquire into the particulars, or, after waiting six months for the information, to prosecute the person to blame, for the neglect.

With regard to the manner of registering, though I have followed the plan of some of my predecessors in office of recording the births in families in a book which serves for the record of births, deaths, marriages, and intentions of marriages, and which was furnished by the town when it was first incorporated, I shall be glad to adopt, and no doubt my successors would follow, any other method which might be thought best, whenever the necessary books are furnished for the purpose, which I think, if uniformity is required, ought to be done by the state instead of the towns.

Less blame would be attached to the clerks for apparent neglect of duty, if the peculiar situation of a large proportion of them were taken into consideration,—many of them receiving nothing for their services excepting the trifling fees allowed by law, the payment of which is often evaded,—and new duties being often imposed upon them by the legislature, for which no compensation is provided, and those duties such as cannot be performed without the concurrence of the town, the inhabitants of which are scattered over a large extent of territory. If when laws are passed requiring such services, and which cannot be made to appear of immediate benefit to the towns, provision should be made to have the expenses paid from the state treasury, there would be less difficulty in enforcing them.

Your report and circular were not received till after I had called the attention of the town to the subject in April, since which there has been but one meeting, and that very thinly attended. As there will be likely to be a very full meeting in November, I intend again to bring it forward. A circular addressed to the several town clerks, especially those who have been negligent, and which would be received by them three or four weeks previous to the meeting, would no doubt have a good effect; and if printed copies of the law could be furnished to the clerks, to be posted up in several public places of

meeting in the town, no doubt the law, defective as it is, would be better observed.

Very respectfully, yours, JAMES A. BAZIN.

JOHN A. BOLLES, Esq., *Secretary of the Commonwealth.*

MILTON, May 26, 1843.

There was but one birth and one death entered upon the records of the town of Milton during that part of the year previous to March last, when the books came into my possession,—and I have been obliged to make use of such information as I could obtain elsewhere, in making my return.

The number of deaths stated in the return I believe to be precisely correct, and the other information sufficiently so, as far as it goes. The christian name and sex of many of the children could not be ascertained; there is a deficiency also in the column of diseases.

As respects the births, except those in the return none have come to my knowledge so particularly that I should be able to make a correct entry of them upon the records. I can make no estimate of the number of births in the town during the past year.

But few births or deaths (probably in the whole not exceeding 40 each,) have been recorded during the last seven years.

The record of marriages, during the year, is also incomplete. *Of the three clergymen* officiating in Milton, *one has recently left without making his return* to the town clerk; and though I have made exertions to find his record, I have been unable to do so. The whole number of marriages in the town, during the year, probably would not exceed 20.

JASON REED, *Town Clerk.*

WRENTHAM, July 7, 1843.

DEAR SIR,—Herewith I transmit you the return of births, marriages and deaths, also a copy of the record of those events in this town, during the year ending May 1, 1843.

My neglect to do so, during the month of May, arose from no desire to evade the law, but from an earnest desire to obtain and communicate the information which it was the design of the law to reach.

Up to the first of May, only a single death had been reported, which, with one or two births, would have been all I could have returned.

Having been informed by the clerk in your office, that the abstract would not be made up immediately, I was in hopes of being able to present a return of every birth and death that had taken place in the town during the past year; but owing to a press of other matters, I have been able to visit only about a third of the families in town, and I am inclined to think that only about one third of the births and deaths in town are returned.

Indeed, within a short distance of me, there are several children waiting for

names, ere they can be recorded ; but as the six months have not expired that is allowed the parent to bring in the name, &c., I do not see as I can notice them in the return.

You will perceive by the record of marriages, that the return by those authorized to solemnize them does not state, in every instance, the town in which the ceremony was performed. Twenty-three is the number, I believe, which were solemnized in this town.

I am, very respectfully, yours, &c.

DAVID L. COWELL.

JOHN A. BOLLES, Esq.

WEST BRIDGEWATER, *May 24*, 1843.

DEAR SIR,—The method of registering births and deaths, in this town, has been to place the names of children, and the dates of birth, in a column underneath the names of their respective parents, and whenever a death occurs in the family, to place the date of the child's death in the adjoining column, directly opposite its name, by which method the age of the child is seen at one view ; and in case of the death of any person whose birth has never been recorded in this town, the person's name and age (*in years*,) is registered in another place, under the head of deaths *only*.

Agreeably to the above method, in order to make my return a verbatim copy of record, I have been under the necessity of making use of the prefix, *the children of*, in the *plural*, notwithstanding in a record for only one year there is an addition of but *one* child to any one family.

And, it will be observed, that the *number* of births, in the general return, does not exactly correspond with the number in the copy of record, for the obvious reason that six months are allowed parents, guardians, &c., to give notice of births ; therefore all have not, *as yet*, been recorded.

And, likewise, the number of marriages returned does not, probably, embrace the whole which have been solemnized, for several others have received certificates of publishment, and, it is presumed, are married ; but there having been no official returns made, they, of course, have not been recorded.

In my return of deaths, it so happens, that there are nine of the twelve, who have died the past year, whose births are not recorded in *this* town ; consequently their ages in years, *months and days* cannot be ascertained without having recourse to the *old records in another town*, (of which this was formerly a part,) for the date of their respective births. I have, therefore, given their ages in years only.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. WHITMAN.

JOHN A. BOLLES, Esq., *Secretary of the Commonwealth.*

PLYMOUTH.

The town clerk says : " There have been 67 deaths in addition to those recorded and returned, as I learn from sextons. The return is imperfect, although I have taken great pains to obtain the information which I here transmit. I think that the number of births in the return does not include more than one third of the number actually born."

MARSHFIELD.

The town clerk of Marshfield says : " Dr. J. B. Fobes, of Hanover, has attended on persons in this town, *but he refuses to report to me the names of the diseases of which they died.*"

This is not the only instance of such extraordinary and censurable refusal, if the statement of clerks may be relied on. The law, however, imposes no obligation upon physicians to answer questions.

TABLE III.—CONTINUED.

OCCUPATION.	Under 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100	Not sta- ted.	Total.	Approximate average of longevity.
Laborer, - -	7	23	31	20	25	23	23	13	1	5	171	51
Landlord, - -	.	3	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	31
Lawyer, - -	.	1	.	1	2	.	.	1	.	.	5	53
Machinist, -	.	1	1	3	2	1	.	.	.	.	8	46
Manufacturer,	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	2	50
Mariner, - -	14	59	32	29	21	12	22	8	.	2	199	43
Mason, - -	.	2	6	1	3	3	4	2	.	.	21	54
Match-maker,	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	25
Merchant, -	2	9	3	10	4	4	7	1	1	.	41	49
Miller, - -	.	1	3	1	1	3	.	1	.	.	10	51
Millwright, -	1	.	1	.	.	.	2	65
Morocco dress'r,	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	2	50
Nail-maker, -	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	55
Navy Officer, -	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	35
Ostler, - -	1	2	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	4	33
Painter, - -	.	2	1	4	.	.	1	.	.	.	8	42
Paper-maker, -	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	35
Pauper, - -	1	1	.	1	1	5	14	7	1	1	32	71
Pedler, - -	.	3	.	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	7	42
Pill-maker, -	1	.	.	.	1	75
Physician, -	.	2	4	2	5	6	2	4	.	.	25	57
Postmaster, -	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	45
Potter, - -	1	.	.	.	.	1	65
Portrait Painter,	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	45
Powder-maker,	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	25
Printer, - -	.	4	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	5	31
Provision deal'r,	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	45
Pump & Block maker, - -	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	35
Rigger, - -	1	.	.	.	.	1	65
Rope-maker, -	.	.	1	.	4	1	1	.	.	.	7	56
Saddler, - -	.	3	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	27
Sail-maker, -	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	2	60
Segar-maker, -	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	35
Sexton, - -	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	55
Sheriff, - -	2	.	.	.	.	2	65
Ship carpenter,	.	2	.	2	.	2	8	2	.	1	17	65
Soap-boiler, -	.	.	.	1	.	2	.	.	.	.	3	58
Speculator, -	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	45
Stone-cutter, -	.	.	1	3	1	.	.	.	.	.	5	45
Student, - -	2	4	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7	24
Superintendent of Factory, -	2	.	.	.	.	.	2	55
Surveyor, - -	1	.	.	1	85
Tallow Chand- ler, - -	1	.	.	1	85
Tailor, - -	.	3	2	2	.	1	.	2	.	.	10	47
Tanner, - -	.	2	.	1	.	2	2	1	.	1	9	57
Teacher, - -	1	5	6	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	16	37

TABLE III.—CONTINUED.

OCCUPATION.	Under 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100	100 to 110	Not stated.	Total.	Approximate average of longevity.
Teamster, - -	.	3	3	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	8	41
Tin-worker, -	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	21
Trader, - -	.	3	4	4	3	5	14	2	.	.	.	35	60
Turner, - -	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	45
Victualler, -	.	.	.	.	.	2	1	.	.	.	.	3	68
Weaver, - -	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	2	60
Wheelwright,	.	2	.	2	2	1	4	.	.	.	.	11	56
Whip-maker, -	2	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	24
Wool-stapler, -	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	45
Yeoman, - -	7	37	38	71	78	111	167	147	41	1	7	705	66
	47	262	213	219	202	256	322	213	46	1	19	1800	.

TABLE IV.

Exhibiting by Counties and by Ages the Number of Deaths for each month during the year.

SUFFOLK COUNTY.

Months.	Sex.			Total.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	Over 100.	Not stated.	Total.
	Not stated.	Male.	Fem.																	
May, - - -	6	126	96	228	37	17	41	16	20	26	21	14	11	8	13	4	.	.	.	228
June, - - -	18	83	79	180	49	18	25	15	5	18	16	7	6	12	5	4	.	.	.	180
July, - - -	22	109	81	212	75	20	27	11	10	16	21	14	3	6	5	3	1	.	.	212
August, - - -	22	122	106	250	93	26	18	6	10	31	20	17	10	7	6	2	2	2	2	250
September, - - -	24	117	99	240	87	26	23	9	8	24	15	17	10	8	5	6	1	1	1	240
October, - - -	15	74	94	183	45	20	20	11	8	28	16	10	10	4	9	.	1	1	1	183
November, - - -	13	92	82	187	43	16	23	8	8	30	27	11	7	6	3	4	.	1	1	187
December, - - -	17	90	87	194	46	17	18	9	5	25	23	20	10	5	8	6	1	1	1	194
January, - - -	12	70	83	165	51	15	18	9	5	14	16	17	7	5	6	1	1	.	.	165
February, - - -	17	66	76	159	46	14	13	9	12	16	16	7	9	5	8	3	1	.	.	159
March, - - -	13	60	98	171	41	16	18	6	5	23	17	15	12	6	7	3	2	.	.	171
April, - - -	22	78	69	169	57	15	9	8	7	20	20	9	5	7	6	5	.	1	1	169
Not stated, - - -	5	.	.	5	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	5
Total, - - -	206	1087	1050	2343	674	230	253	117	103	271	228	158	100	79	81	41	10	1	7	2343

TABLE IV—CONTINUED. ESSEX COUNTY.

MONTHS.	SEX.			Total.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	Not stated.	Total.
	Not stated.	Male.	Fem.																
May, - - -	2	71	59	132	15	11	16	10	10	10	8	6	8	12	13	7	1	5	132
June, - - -	1	48	83	132	17	11	12	8	13	10	12	4	3	8	14	10	.	10	132
July, - - -	8	41	65	114	23	5	14	11	6	12	9	3	8	4	4	5	4	6	114
August, - - -	1	51	78	130	27	15	12	5	7	8	10	5	7	6	6	5	2	15	130
September, - - -	7	85	90	182	35	22	14	10	7	15	13	10	6	9	16	9	2	14	182
October, - - -	3	53	64	120	14	9	10	7	5	12	6	8	8	7	9	10	3	12	120
November, - - -	4	53	44	101	10	3	8	5	5	13	7	10	6	10	10	4	6	4	101
December, - - -	1	46	65	112	9	3	5	3	10	10	11	8	9	11	15	6	1	11	112
January, - - -	.	42	58	100	15	6	6	2	7	14	3	8	6	6	10	8	2	7	100
February, - - -	.	41	47	88	5	5	9	2	6	8	5	2	9	6	8	10	3	10	88
March, - - -	.	55	54	109	15	3	4	4	2	14	17	7	8	7	10	9	1	8	109
April, - - -	4	45	35	84	13	1	3	3	7	6	6	7	5	9	10	9	1	4	84
Not stated, - - -	1	9	7	17	4	1	1	2	.	1	.	1	2	5	.	.	.	.	17
Total, - - -	32	640	749	1421	202	95	114	72	85	133	107	79	85	100	125	92	26	106	1421

TABLE IV—CONTINUED. MIDDLESEX COUNTY.

MONTHS.	SEX.			Total.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	Over 100.	Not stated.	Total.
	Not stated.	Male.	Fem.																	
May, - -	3	72	90	165	12	11	17	12	14	21	18	14	6	10	15	9	2	.	4	165
June, - -	3	49	56	108	10	9	9	15	7	8	8	7	6	10	6	4	1	1	7	108
July, - -	5	60	58	123	30	11	8	12	7	9	13	4	5	7	6	2	1	.	8	123
August, -	2	92	95	189	43	30	19	13	14	21	9	6	4	6	11	10	1	.	2	189
September, -	4	74	89	167	29	29	13	7	10	16	6	13	8	9	12	9	2	.	4	167
October, -	2	67	80	149	20	14	9	8	6	28	9	12	13	9	7	5	2	.	7	149
November, -	3	63	48	114	8	3	11	9	9	19	12	9	6	5	10	7	1	.	5	114
December, -	3	38	45	86	7	3	8	4	4	12	13	11	3	6	10	3	1	.	1	86
January, -	2	46	56	104	16	5	9	4	3	17	14	6	10	3	9	7	.	.	1	104
February, -	3	52	80	135	24	6	10	4	7	16	18	9	12	8	10	7	1	.	3	135
March, - -	2	54	62	118	13	5	7	7	6	17	13	11	3	11	8	10	1	.	6	118
April, - -	2	57	74	133	15	8	6	10	8	23	12	8	9	8	13	7	.	.	6	133
Not stated, -	2	4	1	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	3	7
Total, - -	36	728	834	1598	227	134	126	105	95	207	145	112	86	92	118	80	13	1	57	1598

TABLE IV—CONTINUED. WORCESTER COUNTY.

Months.	Sex.			Total.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	Not stated.	Total.
	Not stated.	Male.	Fem.																
May, - -	.	56	52	108	13	6	9	3	7	11	3	13	14	9	10	6	1	3	108
June, - -	1	62	53	116	12	8	13	7	8	16	13	8	6	6	11	5	.	3	116
July, - -	2	56	59	117	8	7	13	8	4	17	13	4	11	11	9	10	.	2	117
August, - -	5	48	72	125	13	12	18	10	7	13	8	7	6	6	12	6	1	6	125
September, - -	1	72	66	139	8	9	9	8	6	9	15	10	7	18	18	14	3	5	139
October, - -	2	53	53	108	8	4	11	3	6	13	15	3	6	3	15	11	2	8	108
November, - -	3	52	57	112	12	4	5	5	8	13	12	9	8	12	13	6	1	4	112
December, - -	1	45	46	92	15	3	3	4	8	11	8	4	6	9	10	7	1	3	92
January, - -	1	46	62	109	8	7	10	4	9	10	7	8	3	7	20	11	2	3	109
February, - -	1	31	73	105	14	7	8	10	11	8	6	5	5	9	15	6	1	.	105
March, - -	1	61	57	119	12	2	8	5	9	17	7	5	15	9	15	11	2	2	119
April, - -	.	64	53	117	12	5	10	2	8	7	14	12	6	16	10	14	.	1	117
Not stated, - -	2	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	2
Total, - -	20	646	703	1369	135	74	117	69	91	145	121	88	93	115	158	108	14	41	1369

TABLE IV—CONTINUED. HAMPSHIRE COUNTY.

MONTHS.	SEX.			Total.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	Not stated.	Total.
	Not stated.	Male.	Fem.																
May, -	1	23	29	53	2	3	3	3	4	8	2	4	6	4	5	7	.	2	53
June, -	2	10	16	28	2	2	3	.	2	7	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	28
July, -	3	13	17	33	.	3	2	1	3	4	2	4	2	2	5	3	.	2	33
August, -	2	20	16	38	4	2	6	1	3	5	3	3	2	2	.	3	2	2	38
September, -	5	16	16	37	5	4	6	3	1	4	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	4	37
October, -	1	23	20	44	6	1	7	.	4	6	6	5	4	.	.	2	3	.	44
November, -	6	10	18	34	.	5	7	2	1	3	1	1	1	2	3	3	1	4	34
December, -	3	22	25	50	5	1	1	3	2	8	3	5	5	6	5	2	1	3	50
January, -	.	15	21	36	5	1	5	5	1	2	1	3	.	4	5	2	2	.	36
February, -	2	16	12	30	7	1	7	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	.	30
March, -	.	23	23	46	4	2	8	1	3	2	2	4	3	3	6	5	1	2	46
April, -	2	21	24	47	9	3	4	4	.	5	2	3	1	3	5	2	.	6	47
Not stated, -	42	.	.	42	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	42	42
Total, -	69	212	237	518	49	28	59	24	26	55	27	36	29	30	39	34	13	69	518

TABLE IV—CONTINUED. HAMPDEN COUNTY.

MONTHS.	SEX.			Total.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	Over 100.	Not sta- ted.	Total.
	Not stated.	Male.	Fem.																	
May, - - -	1	18	24	43	3	2	3	5	4	7	4	2	3	2	5	2	.	.	1	43
June, - - -	5	17	13	35	7	4	1	4	2	1	3	2	2	1	5	1	.	.	2	35
July, - - -	2	6	13	21	2	1	2	1	3	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	.	.	21
August, - - -	1	9	19	29	3	1	4	.	2	3	5	1	1	2	3	1	.	.	3	29
September, - - -	3	16	10	29	7	1	1	3	1	1	1	.	.	2	5	1	1	.	5	29
October, - - -	2	12	16	30	5	1	1	1	3	3	4	2	2	3	3	2	.	.	.	30
November, - - -	2	12	13	27	2	3	.	.	3	.	2	2	2	4	4	.	1	.	4	27
December, - - -	4	14	19	37	3	1	3	1	3	4	1	2	1	3	6	1	.	.	8	37
January, - - -	2	4	10	16	2	.	2	1	1	2	1	.	2	2	1	.	.	.	2	16
February, - - -	.	12	9	21	4	1	2	2	2	1	4	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	1	21
March, - - -	.	17	20	37	4	1	2	2	3	5	1	4	3	2	5	2	.	.	3	37
April, - - -	1	15	9	25	2	.	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	3	7	1	1	.	.	25
Not stated, - - -	3	3	1	7	2	.	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	2	.	.	.	7
Total, - - -	26	155	176	357	46	16	23	21	29	31	30	19	20	27	47	15	3	1	29	357

TABLE IV—CONTINUED. FRANKLIN COUNTY.

Months.	Sex.			Total.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	Not stated.	Total.
	Not stated.	Male.	Fem.																
May, - - -	1	15	14	30	2	.	2	.	3	2	5	3	2	3	3	4	1	.	30
June, - - -	.	13	10	23	4	1	.	2	2	2	1	.	2	1	3	3	.	2	23
July, - - -	3	9	10	22	2	1	4	3	1	3	2	.	2	.	3	1	.	.	22
August, - - -	4	11	13	28	5	8	2	3	1	3	1	2	.	3	.	.	.	.	28
September, - - -	3	16	11	30	5	5	2	1	3	4	.	1	3	2	3	.	.	1	30
October, - - -	1	13	16	30	2	1	1	.	.	7	1	5	2	4	5	1	.	1	30
November, - - -	.	8	19	27	1	4	1	.	2	4	3	1	2	2	1	5	1	.	27
December, - - -	1	9	14	24	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	4	2	3	2	.	1	24
January, - - -	2	12	10	24	2	1	4	3	3	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	.	.	24
February, - - -	3	17	15	35	4	5	4	2	6	2	.	1	1	2	4	2	1	1	35
March, - - -	1	7	7	15	1	2	2	2	2	1	.	1	2	1	1	.	.	.	15
April, - - -	1	17	15	33	3	.	3	4	3	3	5	3	1	3	2	2	1	.	33
Not stated, - - -	27	4	6	37	4	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	30	37
Total, - - -	47	151	160	358	37	30	26	21	27	35	21	19	23	26	30	23	4	36	358

TABLE IV—CONTINUED. BERKSHIRE COUNTY.

MONTHS.	SEX.			Total.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	Over 100.	Not stated.	Total.
	Not stated.	Male.	Fem.																	
May, - - -	1	15	17	33	1	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	2	2	7	2	1	.	1	33
June, - - -	2	18	20	40	7	5	6	1	3	3	3	2	1	2	3	3	.	1	.	40
July, - - -	2	11	17	30	4	2	1	.	4	3	4	4	2	2	2	1	.	.	1	30
August, - -	2	16	24	42	11	5	3	5	4	2	2	2	3	.	1	2	1	.	1	42
September, - -	4	15	12	31	4	5	2	4	4	1	2	.	2	1	3	1	1	.	1	31
October, - -	3	20	12	35	4	4	1	1	4	5	1	.	2	3	4	3	2	.	1	35
November, - -	1	12	15	28	2	1	2	.	1	4	6	4	1	.	3	3	1	.	.	28
December, - -	2	8	20	30	3	.	1	3	2	9	3	2	3	1	1	1	1	.	.	30
January, - -	1	12	13	26	2	.	2	2	1	4	3	2	.	1	4	3	2	.	.	26
February, - -	2	13	11	26	8	.	4	1	1	2	3	.	.	.	3	1	1	.	2	26
March, - - -	1	11	22	34	3	2	.	2	2	4	3	3	3	2	3	5	.	.	2	34
April, - - -	4	9	12	25	3	2	2	.	3	5	1	.	4	1	2	2	.	.	.	25
Not stated, - -	4	3	.	7	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	7
Total, - -	29	163	195	387	57	29	27	22	32	45	32	20	24	16	36	27	10	1	9	387

TABLE IV—CONTINUED. NORFOLK COUNTY.

MONTHS.	SEX.			Total.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	Over 100.	Not stated.	Total.
	Not stated.	Male.	Fem.																	
May, - - -	7	33	39	79	10	3	12	10	7	9	5	3	3	7	2	1	1	.	6	79
June, - - -	4	36	23	63	9	2	5	4	5	3	6	8	4	5	3	4	1	.	4	63
July, - - -	3	26	26	55	8	2	14	4	.	4	3	2	.	4	5	4	2	.	3	55
August, - - -	7	31	34	72	20	5	9	2	3	5	5	4	2	7	4	.	2	1	3	72
September, - - -	7	30	34	71	14	14	10	4	.	4	1	5	2	3	7	2	1	.	4	71
October, - - -	7	25	30	62	12	4	5	6	1	3	3	6	4	4	4	5	1	.	4	62
November, - - -	2	21	19	42	8	2	1	2	1	8	3	3	1	5	1	4	.	.	3	42
December, - - -	.	11	25	36	3	.	2	4	.	3	1	4	1	3	6	4	1	.	4	36
January, - - -	.	14	28	42	4	1	3	3	1	3	4	3	4	4	3	7	1	.	1	42
February, - - -	1	34	27	62	8	4	5	.	3	5	3	5	3	8	10	4	1	.	3	62
March, - - -	1	27	27	55	6	.	6	1	4	6	5	4	4	2	6	3	2	.	6	55
April, - - -	.	18	25	43	2	1	4	2	1	3	4	3	.	6	10	5	1	.	1	43
Not stated, - - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total, - - -	39	306	337	682	104	38	76	42	26	56	43	50	28	58	61	43	14	1	42	682

TABLE IV—CONTINUED. PLYMOUTH COUNTY.

MONTHS.	SEX.			Total.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	Over 100.	Not stated.	Total.
	Not stated.	Male.	Fem.																	
May, - -	2	16	39	57	10	3	2	1	2	7	8	2	4	4	4	6	2	.	2	57
June, - -	3	25	36	64	6	4	4	2	3	10	2	7	4	5	3	6	1	.	7	64
July, - -	7	21	28	56	6	2	4	3	1	6	6	2	4	7	7	4	1	1	2	56
August, - -	4	23	31	58	7	5	8	1	2	6	3	4	.	4	8	1	1	.	8	58
September, - -	5	32	39	76	15	6	6	4	6	8	2	4	6	5	2	5	1	.	6	76
October, - -	2	36	27	65	9	4	3	1	2	11	3	3	2	5	14	5	.	.	3	65
November, - -	1	24	36	61	4	3	6	1	5	8	3	5	2	5	6	7	2	.	4	61
December, - -	1	20	24	45	5	.	2	1	2	10	8	4	1	2	6	2	2	.	.	45
January, - -	2	15	29	46	.	2	2	1	2	2	5	5	8	8	6	1	.	.	4	46
February, - -	1	13	19	33	1	2	1	.	.	3	1	2	4	6	3	7	.	.	3	33
March, - -	1	12	24	37	3	1	2	1	3	3	6	2	3	5	3	3	.	.	2	37
April, - -	.	19	26	45	3	3	1	2	4	5	3	4	3	5	7	4	.	.	1	45
Not stated, - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total, - -	29	256	358	643	69	35	41	18	32	79	50	44	41	61	69	51	10	1	42	643

TABLE IV—CONTINUED. BARNSTABLE COUNTY.

MONTHS.	SEX.			Total.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	Over 100.	Not stated.	Total.
	Not stated.	Male.	Fem.																	
May, - - -	1	7	12	20	3	1	.	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	.	.	3	20
June, - - -	.	11	11	22	3	2	1	2	.	3	.	1	2	2	1	2	.	.	3	22
July, - - -	3	15	17	35	7	5	2	4	3	3	3	1	1	.	4	1	1	.	.	35
August, - - -	1	24	21	46	8	6	2	2	3	7	1	3	.	6	5	2	.	.	1	46
September, - - -	7	20	26	53	10	5	7	1	4	4	4	3	3	1	3	1	1	.	6	53
October, - - -	1	13	11	25	4	.	1	1	4	3	3	1	2	1	3	.	.	.	2	25
November, - - -	8	12	18	38	7	4	.	1	2	4	4	1	3	2	4	2	1	1	3	38
December, - - -	3	15	11	29	3	.	.	2	2	3	3	2	4	1	4	1	2	.	2	29
January, - - -	.	8	16	24	3	.	1	.	1	3	2	5	1	3	3	1	.	.	1	24
February, - - -	2	17	14	33	5	.	1	1	.	3	4	5	2	2	3	3	1	.	3	33
March, - - -	3	14	14	31	2	1	4	.	1	1	3	1	2	5	3	4	1	.	3	31
April, - - -	6	13	22	41	4	1	4	3	3	3	2	3	3	7	1	3	.	.	4	41
Not stated, - - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total, - - -	35	169	193	397	59	25	23	19	25	39	30	27	24	32	35	21	6	1	31	397

TABLE IV—CONTINUED. DUKES COUNTY AND NANTUCKET.

MONTHS.	SEX.			Total.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	Not stated.	Total.
	Not stated.	Male.	Fem.																
May, - - -	.	8	6	14	4	3	.	.	.	2	1	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	14
June, - - -	.	6	8	14	6	.	.	.	.	3	1	.	.	2	2	.	.	.	14
July, - - -	.	13	7	20	9	.	4	.	.	1	1	2	1	1	1	.	.	.	20
August, - - -	1	11	20	32	7	2	4	1	1	1	2	1	.	3	6	2	1	1	32
September, - - -	.	19	21	40	11	4	4	2	.	4	2	3	2	2	4	1	.	1	40
October, - - -	.	8	14	22	4	3	.	.	3	3	2	.	3	.	1	1	.	2	22
November, - - -	.	3	17	20	3	.	2	1	2	1	.	1	1	1	3	2	1	2	20
December, - - -	.	3	7	10	3	1	.	.	.	2	.	.	1	1	1	1	.	.	10
January, - - -	.	14	7	21	4	.	5	5	.	1	1	1	.	1	.	3	.	.	21
February, - - -	.	6	12	18	1	3	2	3	.	2	.	.	.	3	3	1	.	.	18
March, - - -	.	9	7	16	3	1	3	3	.	.	2	1	.	.	1	1	.	1	16
April, - - -	.	9	10	19	2	1	2	3	.	1	1	2	.	1	2	3	1	.	19
Not stated, - - -	.	4	1	5	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	1	5
Total, - - -	1	113	137	251	58	18	27	18	6	21	13	13	9	16	26	15	3	8	251

RECAPITULATION.

Months.	Sex.			Total.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	Over 100.	Not sta- ted.	Total.
	Not stated.	Male.	Fem.																	
May, - - -	26	468	487	981	114	64	108	65	78	110	80	67	62	66	81	49	10	.	27	981
June, - - -	39	385	419	843	135	68	79	61	51	85	71	49	39	57	58	44	4	2	40	843
July, - - -	61	399	406	866	175	60	96	58	44	84	81	43	43	49	56	38	11	1	27	866
August, - - -	53	484	557	1094	256	128	110	53	58	112	71	57	36	53	62	37	14	1	46	1094
September, - - -	72	532	537	1141	237	140	101	57	53	96	67	69	53	64	83	54	13	1	53	1141
October, - - -	42	411	456	909	136	65	71	41	50	125	71	56	64	47	78	45	16	.	44	909
November, - - -	43	368	403	814	100	49	67	37	49	111	80	59	42	56	62	49	15	1	37	814
December, - - -	36	329	404	769	108	31	46	36	43	101	78	63	50	53	77	37	11	.	35	769
January, - - -	23	303	402	728	114	38	68	40	35	78	60	59	43	46	70	48	9	1	19	728
February, - - -	33	326	408	767	129	49	67	36	52	69	65	41	50	52	72	48	11	.	26	767
March, - - -	23	367	426	816	109	38	65	35	40	95	77	61	60	59	71	59	11	.	36	816
April, - - -	42	372	390	804	129	42	51	42	45	85	75	56	42	71	75	61	6	.	24	804
Not stated, - - -	109	27	16	152	20	1	3	2	1	2	.	3	4	9	3	3	1	.	100	152
Total, - - -	602	4771	5311	10,684	1762	773	932	563	599	1153	876	683	588	682	848	572	132	7	514	10684

TABLE V.—(PREPARED BY A. A. GOULD, M. D.)

DISEASES

Nosologically arranged by Counties.

DISEASES OF THE BRAIN AND NERVOUS SYSTEM.	SUFFOLK.	ESSEX.	MIDDLESEX.	WORCESTER.	HAMPSHIRE.	HAMPDEN.	BERKSHIRE.	FRANKLIN.	NORFOLK.	BRISTOL.	PLYMOUTH.	BARNSTABLE.	NANTUCKET AND DUKES.	TOTALS.
Disease of the Brain,	26	1	4	4	5	2	1	6	4	8	5	7	4	45
Inflammation of Brain,	26	20	11	19	10	3	5	3	7	3	2	1	4	119
Dropsy in the Head,	72	34	36	24	4	4	6	6	7	4	7	6	.	201
Apoplexy,	16	16	23	19	4	.	6	1	7	4	6	1	.	117
Epilepsy,	2	.	3	4	1	.	.	1	1	1	1	2	.	14
Lethargy,	.	.	1	.	1	3	.	7	4	1	8	10	6	3
Palsy,	21	42	15	33	1	1	4	.	2	1	1	3	.	155
Insanity,	4	1	3	3	3	1	8	1	2	2	1	5	6	22
Fits,	45	28	35	31	12	11	1	4	8	2	7	5	6	202
Tetanus, (Lockjaw,) -	.	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	2
Neuralgia, (Nerve-ache,) -	1	1	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
Nervous Affection,	.	2	2	.	.	.	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	2
Spinal Disease,	6	2	2	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	16
Spina Bifida, -	.	1	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Totals,	219	148	135	143	37	25	29	30	33	20	37	34	20	910

TABLE V—CONTINUED. DISEASES.

DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY ORGANS.	SUFFOLK.	ESSEX.	MIDDLESEX.	WORCESTER.	HAMPSHIRE.	HAMPDEN.	BERKSHIRE.	FRANKLIN.	NORFOLK.	BRISTOL.	PLYMOUTH.	BARNSTABLE.	NANTUCKET AND DUKES.	TOTALS.
Asthma, -	2	2	1	1	.	.	.	.	1	2	.	.	.	9
Asphyxia, -	.	2	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Quinsy, -	3	1	1	15	.	1	1	2	.	.	.	1	.	8
Croup, -	58	45	17	5	6	2	2	.	9	3	3	3	3	168
Bronchitis, -	5	5	3	103	1	16	17	12	20	9	22	9	4	21
Inflammation of Lungs, -	145	67	37	2	22	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	493
Inflammation of Larynx, -	4	.	.	2	.	3	1	3	5	.	3	4	3	6
Pleurisy, -	14	3	5	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	48
Dropsy of Chest, -	8	5	3	6	1	.	.	4	1	.	6	2	.	36
Consumption, -	313	308	295	271	106	74	59	70	126	49	128	78	43	1920
Totals, -	552	438	363	406	139	96	80	91	162	63	164	107	53	2714

TABLE V—CONTINUED. DISEASES.

DISEASES OF THE URINARY AND GENITAL ORGANS.	SUFFOLK.	ESSEX.	MIDDLESEX.	WORCESTER.	HAMPSHIRE.	HAMPDEN.	BERKSHIRE.	FRANKLIN.	NORFOLK.	BRISTOL.	PLYMOUTH.	BARNSTABLE.	NANTUCKET & DUKES.	TOTALS.
Disease of Kidneys,	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	.	.	2	.	7
Disease of Bladder,	.	.	2	3	1	1	.	2	1	.	.	.	1	6
Diabetes,	.	.	2	2	1	2	1	2	.	.	1	.	1	9
Gravel, -	4	.	1	2	1	2	1	2	.	.	.	.	1	15
Strangury,	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	1
Chlorosis,	.	.	.	.	2	2	4	2	6	9	2	4	1	2
Childbed,	39	5	10	5	2	2	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	91
Uterine Disease,	.	5	2	2	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	10
Totals,	44	11	17	13	6	6	7	6	8	9	3	7	4	141

TABLE V—CONTINUED. DISEASES.

ORGANS OF DIGESTION.	SUFFOLK.	ESSEX.	MIDDLESEX.	WORCESTER.	HAMPSHIRE.	HAMPDEN.	BERKSHIRE.	FRANKLIN.	NORFOLK.	BRISTOL.	PLYMOUTH.	BARNSTABLE.	NANTUCKET AND DUKES.	TOTALS.
Inflammation of Bowels,	66	37	35	24	14	1	5	2	13	1	10	7	2	117
“ of Throat,	2	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	4
“ of Stomach,	4	3	3	3	2	•	•	2	•	1	1	1	•	20
“ of Liver,	2	1	1	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	5
“ of Peritoneum,	4	2	3	4	1	•	•	•	•	2	•	2	•	18
Bowel Complaint, -	23	12	60	27	5	3	2	2	2	1	12	3	•	152
Liver Complaint, -	18	2	5	8	2	2	1	1	2	•	3	3	1	47
Colic, -	2	2	4	10	1	•	•	•	1	3	2	•	•	26
Cramp in Stomach,	6	•	3	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	10
Stoppage, -	7	•	2	6	•	•	•	•	3	•	2	1	3	27
Hernia, -	•	1	3	3	•	1	2	1	•	1	3	•	•	15
Teething, -	54	1	5	2	1	1	1	1	4	3	1	2	3	79
Canker, -	22	12	3	4	1	•	•	2	•	•	2	2	•	52
Worms,	5	•	2	2	1	•	•	1	•	1	•	•	•	10
Jaundice, -	2	3	•	3	1	•	1	•	•	•	5	•	•	18
Hemorrhoids, (Piles,) -	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	2
Dyspepsy, -	2	4	3	3	1	•	•	3	•	•	•	•	•	16
Totals, -	219	80	134	100	30	8	13	15	26	17	41	23	12	718

TABLE V—CONTINUED. DISEASES.

ORGANS OF CIRCULATION.	SUFFOLK.	ESSEX.	MIDDLESEX.	WORCESTER.	HAMPSHIRE.	HAMPDEN.	BERKSHIRE.	FRANKLIN.	NORFOLK.	BRISTOL.	PLYMOUTH.	BARNSTABLE.	NANTUCKET AND DUKES.	TOTALS.
Anemia, -	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Aneurism, -	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Angina pectoris, -	37	18	16	20	4	1	2	3	8	2	4	5	2	129
Disease of Heart, -	2	1	3	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	17
Dropsy of Heart, -	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Inflammation of Pericardium, -	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Inflammation of Veins, -	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hemorrhage, -	10	4	8	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	36
Totals, -	51	27	30	36	8	1	6	4	10	3	9	6	3	194

TABLE V—CONTINUED. DISEASES.

ENDEMIC, EPIDEMIC AND CONTAGIOUS.	SUFFOLK.	ESSEX.	MIDDLESEX.	WORCESTER.	HAMPSHIRE.	HAMPDEN.	BERKSHIRE.	FRANKLIN.	NORFOLK.	BRISTOL.	PLYMOUTH.	BARNSTABLE.	NANTUCKET AND DUKES.	TOTALS.
Chicken Pox, -	2	3	2	•	•	1	2	•	2	•	1	1	•	2
Small Pox, -	68	86	88	63	71	19	36	36	57	4	40	35	24	80
Scarlatina, -	173	1	6	11	1	9	5	1	4	1	2	6	1	55
Measles, -	25	18	10	4	1	2	•	1	4	•	8	1	2	77
Whooping Cough, -	16	3	10	3	•	•	•	1	2	•	3	1	1	39
Diarrhoea, -	14	44	37	52	10	8	7	22	29	27	3	12	23	294
Dysentery, -	20	14	4	•	1	•	1	3	1	•	1	1	2	37
Cholera Morbus, -	9	13	39	20	1	•	1	1	5	1	10	2	•	129
Cholera Infantum, -	37	1	2	2	•	1	•	1	1	•	1	1	•	10
Influenza, -	2	39	63	32	31	13	9	9	22	5	17	9	7	264
Fever, -	8	12	9	13	•	1	2	1	7	1	6	1	2	58
“ Puerperal, -	3	3	1	6	7	1	•	4	1	1	2	5	7	48
“ Bilious, -	10	32	77	47	21	8	14	15	13	8	14	8	2	317
“ Typhus, -	58	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	1
Autopsy, -	•	32	13	12	3	2	3	7	20	9	22	5	•	163
Erysipelas, -	35	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	1
Fever and Ague, -	1	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	1
Veneral Disease, -	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Totals, -	481	302	361	266	146	65	80	101	163	57	130	86	70	2308

TABLE V—CONTINUED. DISEASES.

DISEASES OF UNCERTAIN SEAT.	SUFFOLK.	ESSEX.	MIDDLESEX.	WORCESTER.	HAMPSHIRE.	HAMPTON.	BERKSHIRE.	FRANKLIN.	NORFOLK.	BRISTOL.	PLYMOUTH.	BARNSTABLE.	NANTUCKET AND Dukes.	TOTALS.
Inflammation,	3	1	3	4	5	2	1	1	.	2	1	1	.	24
Abscess,	3	2	3	.	6	9	9	10	11	4	10	3	4	12
Dropsy,	48	51	28	24	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	218
Debility,	30	4	9	3	1	.	2	1	3	1	4	3	11	50
Marasmus,	61	4	6	7	3	.	2	1	7	2	8	5	3	106
Cancer,	16	22	10	12	7	1	4	2	2	2	8	5	3	99
Purpura,	.	1	2	1	1	.	.	.	.	2	.	1	.	6
Rash,	1	2	1	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	2	1	.	5
Ulcer,	9	1	1	.	2	.	.	2	.	.	5	1	.	17
Mortification,	7	6	6	11	2	.	2	2	.	2	5	1	.	40
Rheumatism,	2	2	4	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	2	.	22
Scrofula,	17	9	2	8	2	2	2	1	4	.	1	1	1	48
Hip Disease,	1	.	1	2	.	.	.	1	.	1	3	2	1	5
Tumor,	14	1	2	2	.	.	.	1	.	1	1	2	1	27
Malformation,	.	1	2	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	5
Malpractice,	.	9	24	20	2	6	6	3	7	6	3	3	2	108
Casualty,	17	.	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	9	1	.	2	1
Fracture,	2	.	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	1	6
Violence,	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Murder,	.	1	1	.	3	.	.	.	6	1	1	.	.	3
Drowned,	27	15	11	6	3	2	3	1	2	1	2	1	4	91
Burns and Scalds,	10	1	7	9	1	1	3	1	2	.	2	1	.	38
Frozen,	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	2	.	1	.	.	1
Poisoned,	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	2

TABLE V—CONTINUED. DISEASES.

DISEASES OF UNCERTAIN SEAT—Continued.	SUFFOLK.	ESSEX.	MIDDLESEX.	WORCESTER.	HAMPSHIRE.	HAMPDEN.	BERKSHIRE.	FRANKLIN.	NORFOLK.	BRISTOL.	PLYMOUTH.	BARNSTABLE.	NANTUCKET AND DUKES.	TOTALS.
Suicide, - - -	5	7	5	8	1	.	2	1	1	.	3	.	.	33
Drinking Cold Water, -	3	.	55	51	22	28	30	14	62	25	37	47	13	3
Infantile, - - -	160	24	19	.	.	1	2	4	1	2	.	.	7	568
Stillborn, - - -	188	2	4	5	.	3	3	1	4	.	6	.	1	926
Sudden, - - -	9	4	4	9	2	3	4	1	2	1	2	.	2	37
Intemperance, - - -	30	2	19	9	36	23	39	23	48	12	47	21	17	77
Old Age, - - -	65	100	110	97	55	79	54	42	120	130	118	31	17	638
Unknown, - - -	49	143	223	120	55	79	54	42	120	130	118	31	17	1181
Totals, - - -	777	415	558	405	152	156	172	111	280	184	259	134	89	3699
Brain and Nerves, - -	219	148	135	143	37	25	29	30	33	20	37	34	20	910
Respiratory Organs, -	552	438	363	406	139	96	80	91	162	63	164	107	53	2714
Urinary and Genital Or- gans, - - -	44	11	17	13	6	6	7	6	8	9	3	7	4	141
Digestive Organs, - -	219	80	134	100	30	8	13	15	26	17	41	23	12	718
Organs of Circulation, -	51	27	30	36	8	1	6	4	10	3	9	6	3	194
Endemic, Epidemic and Contagious, - - -	481	302	361	266	146	65	80	101	163	57	130	86	70	2308
Grand Total, - - -	2343	1421	1598	1369	518	357	387	358	682	360	643	397	251	10,674

TABLE VI.—(PREPARED BY A. A. GOULD, M. D.)

NOSOLOGICAL TABLE OF DISEASES: Showing in what month and at what age they proved fatal.

BRAIN AND NERVES.		May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	Not stated.	Totals.
-	Disease of the Brain, -	1	2	2	5	5	4	5	2	5	5	5	4	.	45
-	Inflammation of the Brain,	13	12	10	16	13	2	2	10	5	14	10	10	2	119
-	Dropsy in the Head,	19	16	13	34	10	20	15	8	20	13	12	21	.	201
-	Apoplexy, -	13	7	8	9	12	10	13	16	5	6	7	9	2	117
-	Epilepsy, -	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	14
-	Lethargy, -	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	.	3
-	Palsy, -	9	10	5	18	17	16	15	17	16	8	7	16	1	155
-	Insanity, -	3	3	.	4	3	1	2	1	2	1	4	1	.	22
-	Fits, -	14	21	23	27	13	14	9	15	13	12	20	18	3	202
-	Tetanus, -	.	.	.	1	1	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	2
-	Neuralgia, -	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	.	.	2	.	7
-	Nervous Affection,	.	.	.	2	2	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	2
-	Spinal Disease, -	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	3	.	.	1	3	.	16
-	Spina Bifida,	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	5
-	Totals,	77	73	65	114	78	70	67	76	69	60	66	85	10	910

TABLE VI—CONTINUED. DISEASES.

RESPIRATORY Organs.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	Totals.	Under 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	Over 100.	Not stated.	Totals.
Asthma, -	.	1	2	.	.	.	3	1	1	1	.	.	9	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	1	.	4	2	1	.	.	.	9
Asphyxia, -	.	1	.	1	1	.	1	.	1	1	2	1	5	2	1	2	.	.	2	1	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	1	5
Quinsy, -	2	10	6	7	9	14	17	20	20	21	12	9	168	35	29	74	24	1	.	2	1	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	168
Croup, -	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	4	4	4	21	5	2	2	1	.	1	1	2	2	2	3	1	.	.	.	21
Bronchitis, -	50	34	32	28	22	26	34	44	42	51	65	62	493	87	68	45	17	22	31	31	27	37	42	49	24	1	.	12	493
Infla'n of Lungs, -	.	1	.	.	.	.	2	2	2	.	.	1	6	1	.	2	.	.	1	1	.	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	6
Infla'n of Larynx, -	3	3	2	2	.	.	3	7	7	4	11	6	48	.	.	1	1	5	6	9	6	8	11	2	.	.	.	.	48
Pleurisy, -	3	3	2	2	1	2	3	7	7	4	11	6	48	.	.	1	1	5	6	9	6	8	11	2	.	.	.	.	48
Dropsy of Chest, -	4	8	2	2	1	2	2	4	1	2	4	4	36	.	.	1	2	1	3	3	5	3	5	12	1	.	.	.	36
Consumption, -	183	148	156	164	180	175	143	158	136	127	167	174	919	35	24	23	15	165	490	364	234	162	166	135	30	7	.	70	1920
Totals, -	265	207	202	205	215	219	206	235	212	209	265	261	132714	167	124	150	59	190	529	410	279	212	230	214	59	8	.	83	2714
URINARY & GENI- TAL Organs.																													
Disea. of Kidneys, -	.	.	.	.	1	2	.	1	.	.	1	2	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	1	2	1	.	.	1	7
Disea. of Bladder, -	1	.	.	1	1	1	.	1	1	.	1	1	6	.	.	1	1	2	1	2	.	3	3	3	.	.	.	.	6
Diabetes, -	.	.	.	.	3	2	.	1	.	1	1	2	9	.	.	1	2	1	2	2	.	2	1	1	3	.	.	.	9
Gravel, -	1	1	3	.	.	.	5	1	.	.	1	3	15	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	1	3	1	6	1	.	.	.	15
Strangury, -	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	2
Chlorosis, -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	2	.	.	.	.	3	43	31	9	1	.	.	.	.	4	91	
Childbed, -	6	5	6	7	7	4	15	9	4	9	12	7	91	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	2	10
Uterine Disease, -	.	.	2	1	1	.	1	2	.	.	2	1	10	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	1	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Totals, -	8	6	12	9	13	9	21	15	5	9	18	16	141	.	.	.	2	6	49	33	11	8	8	12	5	.	.	7	141

TABLE VI—CONTINUED. DISEASES.

ORGANS OF DIGESTION.		May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	Not stated.	Under 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	Over 100.	Not stated.	Totals.
		1724	16	1	25	3021	1813	1012	1212	17	2	38	1814	1319	4026	1513	8	7	4	2	217									
Inflammation of Bowels,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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“ of Stomach,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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Bowel Complaint,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liver Complaint,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colic,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cramp in Stomach,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stoppage,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hernia,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teething,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canker,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worms,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jaundice,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hemorrhoids,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dyspepsy,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		4152	68	122	115	72	45	42	36	35	40	44	6	88	221	46	29	28	63	63	46	37	40	33	13	.	.	.	11	718

TABLE VI—CONTINUED. DISEASES.

Organs of Circulation.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	Not stated.	Under 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	Over 100.	Not stated.	Totals.
	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	Not stated.	Under 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	Over 100.	Not stated.	Totals.
Anemia, -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Aneurism, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Angina Pectoris, -	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	7
Disease of Heart, -	11	11	7	8	12	13	8	6	10	7	17	18	1	11	5	4	5	15	16	10	10	6	18	23	5	-	-	1	129
Dropsy of Heart, -	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	2	2	-	2	3	3	3	-	4	-	-	-	-	18
Inflammation of Veins, -	-	-	-	-	5	1	4	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hemorrhage, -	4	5	6	2	5	1	4	-	3	1	2	3	-	7	-	-	1	2	7	7	4	2	3	1	1	-	-	1	36
Totals, -	17	17	14	14	22	17	13	13	14	11	18	23	1	18	5	7	8	18	26	19	18	15	23	29	6	-	-	2	194

TABLE VI—CONTINUED. DISEASES.

ENDEMIC, EPIDEMIC AND CONTAGIOUS.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	Not stated.	Under 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	Over 100.	Not stated.	Totals.	
Chicken Pox, -	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	80
Small Pox, -	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	15	14	12	4	-	15	5	9	2	7	7	15	6	4	3	2	-	-	-	-	2	80
Scarlatina, -	99	82	77	61	56	50	56	37	46	68	50	46	4	79	90	308	163	41	9	3	3	1	3	4	2	-	-	26	732	732
Measles, -	-	-	-	6	6	3	1	-	5	-	1	1	1	17	12	15	6	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	55
Whooping Cough, -	-	-	-	8	14	12	4	1	7	7	6	6	1	33	22	14	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	77
Diarrhoea, -	-	-	-	10	15	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	15	6	2	-	1	1	3	3	-	3	2	1	1	-	1	39	39
Dysentery, -	-	-	-	15	35	3	6	3	1	-	2	1	1	44	67	62	25	10	4	11	5	8	10	26	11	1	-	10	294	294
Cholera Morbus, -	-	-	-	19	2	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	5	6	7	2	2	2	4	3	1	4	1	-	-	-	3	37	37
Cholera Infantum, -	-	-	-	44	34	11	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	86	31	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	129	129
Fever, -	23	21	10	18	22	29	31	23	21	25	21	19	1	10	10	15	15	29	38	29	24	23	30	18	7	-	16	264	264	
“ Puerperal, -	8	9	1	3	1	2	7	6	6	5	5	5	-	-	-	-	2	31	19	5	1	4	4	4	-	-	1	1	58	58
“ Bilious, -	2	2	3	5	4	7	8	3	3	3	3	5	-	1	1	3	4	9	11	5	1	4	4	4	-	-	1	1	48	48
“ Typhus, -	14	9	12	28	48	73	50	30	13	19	10	10	-	1	2	9	18	53	109	40	29	22	14	9	3	-	7	316	316	
Autopsy, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Erysipelas, -	22	21	8	6	12	11	9	16	18	12	16	13	-	19	5	2	9	9	18	18	15	22	19	17	5	2	4	164	164	
Fever and Ague, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Influenza, -	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	-	3	1	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	2	1	-	-	-	10	10
Veneral Disease, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals, -	198	176	198	300	332	241	187	133	137	158	129	113	6	328	260	454	249	165	235	147	95	87	90	85	34	4	-	75	2308	2308

TABLE VI—CONTINUED. DISEASES.

DISEASES OF UN- CERTAIN SEAT.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	Not stated.	Under 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	Over 100.	Not stated.	Totals.
Inflammation,	3	-	3	-	1	2	-	6	4	-	4	1	-	3	1	2	2	2	5	3	1	1	2	2	2	-	-	-	24
Abscess,	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	3	1	-	6	15	3	-	8	18	1	1	3	18	4	1	32	46	8	-	-	6	12
Dropsy,	22	19	13	18	20	24	23	21	17	17	4	5	1	9	1	12	8	8	5	12	24	4	13	12	2	-	-	-	218
Debility,	-	3	7	7	1	6	4	2	3	3	4	5	1	2	1	-	-	-	3	3	4	4	2	6	2	1	-	-	50
Marasmus,	3	9	7	12	11	10	7	7	5	12	9	6	2	29	14	18	17	4	2	6	4	26	21	22	6	2	-	-	106
Cancer,	13	5	4	4	6	10	10	11	9	6	10	11	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	6	14	1	22	1	-	-	-	-	99
Purpura,	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Rash,	-	-	1	2	1	1	1	2	-	-	1	3	-	2	3	4	1	1	1	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	5
Ulcer,	-	1	-	3	2	1	1	2	-	1	3	3	-	-	1	2	2	4	4	1	6	4	5	6	3	-	-	-	17
Mortification,	-	6	4	5	4	4	2	3	5	4	2	-	-	-	1	2	-	4	3	2	3	6	4	-	6	3	-	-	40
Rheumatism,	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	-	-	2	1	3	2	-	-	3	5	3	3	1	1	2	3	4	-	-	-	-	22
Scrofula,	1	5	5	6	7	3	2	2	4	3	4	5	1	9	6	8	4	7	2	6	1	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	48
Hip Disease,	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	3	1	1	1	2	-	2	1	1	1	1	-	2	8	1	5	3	1	-	-	-	5
Tumor,	1	2	3	1	3	-	3	1	2	4	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
Malformation,	2	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Malpractice,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	6	12	19	13	8	6	9	7	2	-	-	4	108
Casualty,	14	7	10	4	10	12	10	10	5	10	11	5	-	3	5	-	-	1	1	-	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	6
Fracture,	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Violence,	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Murder,	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	91
Drowned,	-	20	7	8	-	5	7	1	2	3	14	7	2	23	1	15	21	2	10	10	2	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	38
Burns and Scalds,	6	3	1	2	1	4	3	3	2	6	4	3	-	3	6	13	5	2	1	2	3	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
Frozen,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Poisoned,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Suicide,	3	3	2	2	7	2	1	4	1	2	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	4	7	6	1	1	-	-	-	-	33
Drink'g Cld. Wat'r,	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3

Infantile, -	49	52	50	80	68	38	35	43	36	45	35	30	71	550	6	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	568
Stillborn, -	9	20	21	19	28	16	17	19	13	19	17	23	5	226	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	226
Sudden, -	5	-	2	1	3	2	3	6	4	4	2	5	-	-	-	2	-	3	4	7	2	5	10	2	-	-	-	-	37
Intemperance, -	8	3	11	5	6	6	10	7	4	7	5	4	1	-	-	-	1	5	24	21	12	7	5	-	-	-	2	77	
Old Age, -	57	55	47	48	58	45	49	50	52	63	64	48	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	172	334	102	7	13	638	
Unknown, -	138	109	99	97	118	84	83	53	82	73	81	74	90	142	18	82	87	70	85	67	58	61	91	77	47	7	285	1181	
Totals, -	375	312	307	330	366	281	275	255	255	285	280	262	116	994	71	162	156	147	192	168	181	168	212	380	422	115	7	322	3699
Brain and Nerves, -	77	73	65	114	78	70	67	76	69	60	66	85	10	167	92	113	60	43	59	36	53	61	79	95	33	5	-	14	910
Respiratory Or-	265	207	202	205	215	219	206	235	212	209	265	261	13	167	124	150	59	190	529	410	279	212	230	214	59	8	-	83	2714
gans, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	49	33	11	8	12	5	-	-	7	141	
Urinary and Gen-	8	6	12	9	13	9	21	15	5	9	18	16	-	-	-	-	2	6	49	33	11	8	12	5	-	-	7	141	
ital Organs, -	41	52	68	122	115	72	45	42	36	35	40	44	6	88	221	46	29	28	63	63	46	37	40	33	13	-	11	718	
Digestive Organs, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Organs of Circu-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
lation, -	17	17	14	14	22	17	13	13	14	11	18	23	1	18	5	7	8	18	26	19	18	15	23	29	6	-	2	194	
Endemic, Epidem-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
ic and Conta-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
gious, -	198	176	198	300	332	241	187	133	137	158	129	113	6	328	260	454	249	167	235	147	95	87	90	85	34	4	75	2308	
Grand Totals, -	981	843	866	1094	1141	909	814	769	728	767	816	804	152	1762	773	932	563	599	1153	876	683	588	682	848	572	132	7	514	10,684

LETTER FROM LEMUEL SHATTUCK, ESQ.

THE following communication from a gentleman who has devoted much time, and great skill and labor to the investigation of the whole subject of VITAL STATISTICS, will be found worthy of careful examination by those who are interested in the matter of Registration.

Boston, Dec. 13, 1843.

TO JOHN A. BOLLES, ESQ., *Secretary of the Commonwealth.*

DEAR SIR,—I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, requesting me to communicate to you any suggestions I may deem expedient in relation to the subject of the Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths. It was my intention, when a similar request was made by you last winter, to have forwarded a communication to you on the subject then, but sickness in my family prevented me from doing it. I was pleased, however, to perceive from your first annual report, that you had availed yourself of several suggestions contained in the documents I then placed in your hands.

My attention several years since was called to an examination of the early records in Massachusetts; and among others, particularly those of the births, marriages, and deaths; and in connection with them of the laws relating to those records, and the practical application of these laws, in the different periods of our history. It appears that the early settlers of New England regarded the subject of registration as one of great importance. An act was passed, as early as 1639, ordering, "that the days of every marriage, birth, and death, of every person, within the jurisdiction of Massachusetts," should be recorded. By subsequent acts passed between that time and 1657, "parents, masters, guardians, executors, and administrators," were required to deliver to the town clerk the names of such persons belonging to them, as had been born or died. Every "new-married man" was likewise required to deliver the certificate of his marriage to the town clerk to be recorded. And the town clerk was obliged to make a copy of these records, quarterly or annually, and transmit it to the clerk of the County Court, in which the town was situated, to be by him recorded. Fees were allowed each town clerk, paid by the person obtaining the record, for recording every birth, marriage, or death, and penalties were

imposed on him and others for neglecting to perform the duties the law prescribed. Similar laws were passed about the same time in Plymouth Colony. They were re-enacted under the provincial charter of 1692, and continued in force until the revolution, excepting the provision requiring returns to be made to the County Courts, which was omitted. In 1785 and 1795 the laws on the subject were revised, and acts were passed similar to the existing provisions of the Revised Statutes, which continued nominally in force, until the passage of the act of March, 1842.

In looking at the practical operation of these laws, it appears that during the existence of the first Colonial Charter, and prior to 1692, records of some form, though very imperfect and unsystematic, were made by the towns, and copies of them transmitted to the County Courts. Many of these records are still preserved, though many others are, through carelessness or negligence, worn out or lost. Such as are in existence are very valuable. During the existence of the second charter, from 1692, records were still kept by most of the towns, though returns were seldom made to the county. Since the revolution the registration of births and deaths has gradually fallen into neglect, until in many towns what few records are made are comparatively of very little value. This will appear abundantly evident from an examination of your valuable report made the last winter. The registration of marriages is also very imperfect, and in very many instances known to have been omitted altogether. The recent act, though of considerable utility, has not provided a remedy for existing defects. Ecclesiastical registration has not and cannot supply the place of civil registration; and as to private registration, that is also very much neglected.

There are several very obvious defects in the existing laws and regulations on this subject. Among others the following may be mentioned:—

1. They do not make it the special duty of some particular person designated to furnish and collect the information.
2. They do not allow sufficient compensation for the performance of duty, and do not enforce sufficient penalties for the neglect of it.
3. They do not prescribe any uniform plan or form by which the records should be made and kept, but leave it to the discretion and taste of the several town clerks.
4. They are not sufficiently explicit, and do not record a sufficient number of particulars.
5. The records are not provided with indexes, by which any name may be easily found without the laborious, and often unsuccessful examination for a fact known to be recorded, which is now required. The existing records of the towns in this respect, appear in so great a variety of ways, and are generally so ill arranged, and many of them so badly made, that they are much less useful to the public than they ought to be.

The imperfection of our records of this kind, is a subject of general complaint by those who have examined them. These records are the elements of

all enquiries relating to population and vital statistics. It is very inconsistent with the present enlightened state of public opinion, and much to be regretted, that a state so well adapted to the purpose as Massachusetts is, and feeling, as she does, so much interest in every subject relating to the condition of her citizens, and the progress of their wealth, should not have an efficient system of public registration, by which the important statistics relating to population, its social condition, to life, disease, and mortality, may be known. The statistics of pauperism, of crime, of insanity, of education, and of other subjects, are obtained at considerable labor and expense, annually, by the State, but, though exceedingly valuable in themselves, they are comparatively of less value, than those here proposed to be obtained.

In examining this subject, it appeared of sufficient importance to induce me to obtain from England the parliamentary report and laws relating to the system of Registration, which was adopted there in 1836; and also specimens of all the documents, used by the "Registrar General of Births, Marriages, and Deaths," in carrying these laws into execution. I have also a series of the annual reports made by that officer to Parliament. These documents and reports show that the subject is justly regarded in England as one of great importance, and that the system is popular among the people. I have also obtained from France, through Hon. Lewis Cass, an account of the system in operation there, which has been copied by most of the other governments on the Continent. Some account of their system, obtained from these documents, was given in your report last winter. A letter, under cover of one from Hon. Mr. Cass, from Eugene Vail, Esq., then Secretary of Legation, is forwarded to you with this.

After a careful examination of all these documents, and after considerable reflection on the subject myself, I have prepared the accompanying System of Registration, which, though full, is simple, and which I suppose might be easily carried into practice in all the towns in this Commonwealth. In introducing it to you, I beg leave to accompany it with a few additional remarks on the importance and explanatory of the system.

One of the most important subjects of investigation, and one which concerns every individual in the community, is that which relates to human life, embracing its reproduction, development, continuance and decay; and how far each is influenced by seasons, locality, disease, and other circumstances which may exist. A sufficient number of facts are, however, not as yet attainable in this country, to enable us to enter upon such investigations with a probability of arriving at satisfactory results. No public registration of much value for this purpose, is made of the elementary facts,—the births, marriages, and deaths,—and without it the efforts of private individuals can but very imperfectly accomplish the object.

A system of registration like the one proposed is intended to accomplish two great objects:—

FIRST.—*To preserve the name, and afford the means of identifying the*

connexions, and some facts concerning the personal history of every person who is born, marries, or dies, in the community.

SECOND.—*To determine how health, life, and longevity, are affected by age, sex, condition and occupation ; by climate, season, and place of residence ; and by the diseases to which, under any circumstances, man may be subject.*

I. To accomplish the FIRST object, the following particulars should be recorded : 1, concerning *births*, the name of the individual born, the date and place of birth, and the name and occupation of the parents. 2, Concerning *marriages*, the names, places of birth, residence, and occupation of the parties, and the date and place of marriage ; the names, residence, and occupation of the fathers ; and the name of the person by whom the marriage ceremony was performed, and the witnesses. And 3, concerning *deaths*, the name and age of the deceased, and the date and place of death ; the occupation, places of birth, and names of the parents.

Facts on all these points are necessary to be known in order to determine individual identity. So many individuals bear the same name, that something beside their names is necessary to make them known. The occupation and place of residence are often essential. If a record should be made that John Smith, John Brown, or a person of some other name of common occurrence, had died in Boston, could he be identified from others of the same name, without a record of his place of residence, and his occupation ? And if a death was recorded, as the son of a similar name, must not some particulars of their parents be known in order to identify him ? The propriety of such a record must be apparent to every one who may examine the subject. The names of parents have uniformly been inserted, I believe, in connection with the records of births, but they have not been in this country in those of marriages, or deaths of adults, and very seldom of any age. It is uniformly the practice in Europe to insert them in connection with both, and in all cases. The parties cannot be identified without such a record, and it would lose much of its value, when this cannot be done ; and seems as necessary in one case as the other.

Records of this kind would be of very great importance in the various civil relations of society, and would secure to all classes numerous legal rights. They would not be the source of gratification to those who are fond of genealogical investigations merely, but would be the repository of facts and evidence to settle questions involving the dearest rights and interests of individuals and communities. It has been well said by an eminent English jurist, “that it appears to him fully as necessary for the preservation of the rights of individuals to preserve a register of births, deaths, and marriages, as it is to preserve a register of deeds.” It is useful to all persons, and to some it is of great importance, to be able to prove, in a legal way, their age and place of birth ; and equally important is the date of death, and the particulars of the marriage contract. Sometimes the establishment of a right to a legacy depends upon this proof. Several instances might be mentioned in which estates have been lost for want of registration, and many others in which accurate civil registers

would have saved expensive litigation, and preserved families from pecuniary ruin.

Evidences of relationship are easily lost among the lower classes of society, and indeed among all classes. There are many individuals and families, who know not who their grand parents were. They cannot tell their own age from any record, but only by tradition, or after calculating the date of some other remarkable family event, which has been associated with that of their birth. Such defects should not exist, but the humblest individual ought to find in the public records the means of identifying his parents, and of tracing his connexions and genealogy. The rich can better afford to pay the expense of obtaining other kind of evidence to establish their rights, than the poor, but even to them it is a consideration of great importance. Any one conversant with our pauper system, and questions of settlements, and with the difficulties of determining the legal rights of individuals, thrown by misfortune on towns for support, and the expensive law suits often arising concerning them, must have seen the great defects of our present system of registration, and of the necessity of adopting a more accurate and efficient one.

II. To accomplish the SECOND object, the record should furnish a class of facts different from those which go to show the identity of individuals, though in some particulars they must be the same. It should specify :—1, concerning *births*, the date of the birth, sex of the child, and its state, whether living or stillborn. 2, concerning *marriages*, the date of the marriage, the age and condition of the parties, whether bachelor or maid, husband or wife, widower or widow ; and 3, concerning *deaths*, the date of the death, the age, sex, condition, residence, occupation, and disease or cause of death of the individual. To be of value, every birth, every marriage, and every death, in a place or community of known limits or extent, and in a given time, should be recorded, and the particulars respecting each accurately obtained and accurately entered. This may be done with great ease and accuracy, and with little labor, by using the tabular form prepared, in the plan accompanying this communication. It is desirable to know, in relation to the population of every town, county, and state, what are the number and kind of births, and in what months of the year they took place ; what is the number of marriages, and of what classes of individuals ; and what is the number of deaths, and what are the circumstances internal and external connected with them. These questions are all of great importance, and we are all more or less directly or indirectly interested in them, whether statesmen, professional men, or private individuals in society. Registration would afford the means of determining them, and would lead to the adoption of such regulations as would aid in the diminution of sickness, in the security of life, in the improvement of the general physical condition of the people, and in promoting their greatest good, and their greatest happiness.

There are other considerations connected with this subject. By the investigations of learned men in Europe, it has been ascertained that the reproduction, the life, the sickness, and the death of man, is regulated by certain fixed and

natural laws. These laws vary of course according to the individual and the circumstances in which he is placed. They have not yet been satisfactorily investigated in their application to man in the circumstances in which he is placed in this country. Nor is it possible for any one to do it fully with the means we now possess. It is believed, however, that many facts exist which render the operation of these laws somewhat peculiar to ourselves; and it is highly desirable that a system of registration of human life should be adopted by which they might be obtained.

The value of life, by which I mean the number of years man may live, cannot be ascertained without a knowledge of these laws. Life insurance has become as common in England as the insurance of real or personal property; and its advantages are becoming more known and appreciated by intelligent men in this country. It is impossible, however, to establish equitable rates without we understand the laws of life and mortality. This knowledge is necessary to determine all questions relating to life annuities, rights of dower, reversionary estates, &c. All these questions are determined by calculating the expectation of life under various circumstances. Such calculations we should be enabled to make were the records kept according to the plan proposed in this paper, but not from any existing data.

Such records would enable us to construct tables of mortality containing an invaluable fund of statistical information, showing the various influences in operation among us, which tend to increase or diminish our population, the comparative value of life among males and females, and of persons existing under different circumstances and conditions; and the comparative prevalence of health and disease, and of death, in the different seasons of the year, in different localities, at the different ages, and under different circumstances of life. Until we have such a class of facts we cannot know the wants of our population, we cannot tell when to apply remedies in order to ameliorate their condition, to improve the general health of the community, promote the security of life, and add to the number of years of existence. At present our exertions must be influenced by, and be made upon, comparatively uncertain theory and conjecture; and of course may produce erroneous results.

These are some of the considerations that suggest themselves in view of this subject. The next enquiry is:—How shall the elementary facts be obtained? and what System of Registration shall be adopted?

The experience of every government, where systems of registration have been adopted, shows that it must be made the special duty of some individuals to collect the facts, and furnish them to the proper officer. To leave this to the voluntary action of any one in the community fails of producing those full and accurate returns which are essential to render the record valuable. It is also bad policy to exact a fee of the connexions or friends of one whose birth or death is recorded, as was once the provision of our statutes. So far as they are concerned the record should be free. But to the proper persons concerned rewards should be offered for the performance of duty, and penalties imposed

for the neglect of it. In this way it will be made their interest, as well as their duty, to perform what the law may require. As regards both births and deaths, no class of persons in the community are so well qualified to furnish the information in the first instance, or can so easily do it, as physicians; and none are, or should be, more deeply interested in the subject. The medical profession in England have voluntarily engaged in endeavors to carry the Registration Act into force, with a spirit which reflects the highest honor on their desire for the promotion of the public good and the advancement of science. With these views the following outline of a plan is proposed:—

I. *As regards Births.*

1. Every physician, or other person who practices midwifery, should procure his name and place of residence, to be recorded in the office of the town clerk where he resides, and also in that of any other town where he may practice in his profession; and the town clerk should enter all such names in alphabetical order in the Register of Births, in all such towns, specifying the date when the same was recorded. Such a regulation as this is required by law, and has been in operation several years in Philadelphia.

2. Every such physician and other person should, on the first day of each month, or oftener, be required to make a return, signed by himself, of every birth at which he has been present during the preceding month, according to an approved and prescribed form of return. One is furnished in the accompanying system of Registration.

3. If any birth happen when no such physician or other person be present, the parents, heads of families, occupier of the house, master of jails, houses of industry, or vessels, where it occurred, should in like manner inform the town clerk of the same within ten days after a birth may take place. And it should be the duty of every person, whether a midwife be present or not, to see that a return of every birth is duly made under suitable penalties for neglect. In case any physician or other person neglect to make returns, the clerk should notify him of such delinquency.

4. The town clerk should enter all such returns in the Register of Births for said town, according to an approved and prescribed form. One is prepared in the accompanying system. Whenever any returns are made without the name of the child, the clerk should enter the other particulars, leaving that blank; and afterwards he should obtain and insert the name.

II. *As regards Marriages.*

1. Whenever any person proposes to enter into a contract of marriage, he should give to the town clerk a description of the parties to the contract, in regard to the particulars to be set forth, in an approved and prescribed form of a marriage contract. One is provided in the accompanying system.

2. Provision should be made by law for the appointment of a suitable number of persons in every town, who alone should have authority to solemnize

marriage in said towns. And every person who is so authorized should return his name, place of residence, and official station, to the clerk, who should faithfully enter all such names in alphabetical order in the Register of Marriages for said town. And every person, performing such ceremony, should make a return on the first day of every month, of each of the marriages solemnized by him during the preceding month. In case of neglecting to make returns, the clerk should give him notice of such negligence.

3. The clerk should faithfully enter all intentions, or licenses of marriages, in the Register of Marriages, according to the form prescribed; and should furnish to the parties a copy of the proposed contract, which should be shown to the person by whom the marriage ceremony is performed, and who, with the parties and two witnesses, should affix their signatures to it, as evidence that it has been duly executed and attested; and no marriage should be performed by any one, under penalties, without first having such certificate.

4. All the particulars of such marriage should be faithfully entered in the Register of Marriages, by the town clerk, and he should attest the same on the marriage contract. And no record of marriage should be legal unless so recorded and attested by the clerk. His certificate, and no other, should be considered as legal evidence of marriage.

III. *As regards Deaths.*

1. Provision should be made by law for the appointment in every town of sextons, or superintendents of burying grounds. And every such officer should make a return of his name and residence to the clerk of the town in which he resides, who should faithfully enter the same, with the date of his appointment, in the Register of Deaths. And no other person except such as are thus authorized, should be allowed to inter any dead body, under penalty, nor should any one be allowed to inter in any town, except the one where he resides, unless by authority of the sexton of said town.

2. No person duly authorized as above should be allowed to inter any dead body until he shall first obtain from the attending physician, or some other person, a description of the body to be interred, in regard to the particulars set forth, in an approved and prescribed form of return, and deliver the same to the town clerk. One is provided in the accompanying system.

3. Every physician, who was last in attendance on the deceased, or in case a death occurred when no physician had been in attendance, every parent, head of family, occupier of the house, coroners, master of jails, houses of industry, or vessels, where it happened, should be required to inform the sexton in regard to all the prescribed particulars, according to the best of his ability.

4. The town clerk should faithfully enter all the particulars specified in said return in the Register of Deaths for the town.

The town clerks might be required to make complete indexes to each Register book, of births, marriages and deaths, according to the form prescribed in the accompanying system, for the benefit of the towns; and also to preserve, in

some way of easy reference, the original returns of births, marriages and deaths, affixing to each the number corresponding to the number on the register.

Blank register books containing printed blank forms in uniform style for the entries of births, marriages and deaths, should be furnished by the Secretary of the Commonwealth to the several towns, and the clerks of said towns should be required to preserve said registers with great care. Blank forms, printed in like uniform style, should in like manner be furnished to the several towns. And the clerk of every town should, during the month of July, or January annually, be required to make two copies of the records of births, marriages and deaths, that have been entered during the preceding year, ending the 30th day of June or the 31st day of December, and should transmit one of said copies to the Register of Probate for the county where he resides, and the other to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, or other person authorized by the Governor to receive the same.

The Registers of Probate, and the Secretary of State, should carefully examine and arrange the several returns, and cause them to be bound in annual volumes, or others of convenient size, and should make full indexes of all the names, both male and female, according to the forms proposed in the accompanying system.

Tables exhibiting a full view of the statistics of human life in the several counties, and in the whole State, should be prepared under the direction of the Governor or Secretary, and published annually. The following described tables might be embraced in such statistics :—

1. *Births.* A table specifying the number of births each month in the year, distinguishing the number of stillborn from the living children, males and females, twins, thrins and colored.

2. *Marriages.* A table specifying the number of intentions of marriage entered, and also the number of marriages solemnized, each month in the year, distinguishing the number of marriages between bachelors and maids, bachelors and widows, widowers and maids, and widowers and widows. Also the average age of the males and females at marriage, and whether they were inhabitants or strangers in the place where the ceremony was performed.

3. *Deaths.* Tables of mortality exhibiting—1st. The number who died the first 3, 6, 9 and 12 months of the year from birth, and in every subsequent year, distinguishing the males from the females. 2d. The number who died each month of the year, distinguishing the males from the females, and the ages under 1 year, 1 to 2, 2 to 5, 5 to 10, 10 to 15, and every subsequent quinquennial period of life. 3d. The influence of social condition on the mortality of different ages, and sexes, specifying the number who died bachelors, husbands or widowers, and maids, wives or widows, in each quinquennial period of life. 4th. The number who died of each disease in each month of the year, and in each quinquennial period of life, distinguishing the males from the females, the places of nativity, and the colored from the white. 5th. A

table abstracted from the above, exhibiting the diseases in classes. 6th. The number who died of each occupation, and the average age. 7th. And such other tables as experience may deem expedient to illustrate the subject.

4. General tables exhibiting deductions from the preceding series, containing comparative views of the condition and movement of the population, and the laws of human life and mortality.

The expense of such registration might be borne in the following manner:—

1. Every individual should be entitled to have a birth or death recorded without fees.

2. For recording marriages, the party procuring the record to be made shall pay one dollar for entering the intentions of marriage, for the certificate, and for recording the marriage after it has been solemnized. And a like sum for recording a contract of marriage, when the intentions were entered in another town.

3. The clerk shall be entitled to compensation, to be paid by the towns, as follows:—1st. For recording a birth or death, twenty cents each for the first hundred in a given year, and ten cents for all over one hundred. 2d. For making transcripts of the records for the county and State, five cents for each birth, marriage or death, copied and transmitted. 3d. The clerks of the several towns, the registers of probate, and the Secretary of State, should be entitled to receive ten cents for an examination for a single entry, twenty cents for a general examination, twenty-five cents for a certificate containing a transcript of a single entry, and for more than one, according to the amount of labor, to be paid by the person requesting the examination, unless a town shall otherwise direct.

It is supposed that sufficient revenue would arise in this way in a few years to repay all the expenses of registration.

Such is a brief outline of a System of Registration, which it has occurred to me might be easily matured and adopted by the Legislature, and introduced in the several towns in this State. It is comprehensive, but at the same time simple. By using the tabular forms of entries proposed, it will be perceived that much of the apparent labor will be obviated. When once introduced I have no doubt that the people would readily contribute their exertions to carry it into successful operation, and that it would soon become a measure of great popularity. It would at the same time provide an invaluable record for our own existing population and for posterity, and exhibit the most important facts of history and science.

Respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

LEMUEL SHATTUCK.

Letter from Hon. Lewis Cass, referred to in Mr. Shattuck's Letter.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES, }
PARIS, September 27th, 1838. }

SIR,—I have already stated to you, informally, that I had requested Mr. Vail, a very intelligent citizen of the United States, now here, to procure the information desired in your letter of June 25. Mr. Vail's perfect acquaintance with France, as well as his general intelligence, admirably qualify him for the task. He has executed it much better than I could, and I think you will agree with me, that his letter presents very just views on the subject, and is creditable to his talents and industry.

I forward the packet to Mr. Ledyard, as I told you I should, who will transmit it to you.

I am, sir, very respectfully

Your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

LEMUEL SHATTUCK, Esq., *Boston, Mass.*

Letter from Mr. Vail. referred to in Mr. Shattuck's Letter.

PARIS, September 22nd, 1838.

LEWIS CASS, Esquire Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at the Court of France.

DEAR SIR,—The subject of Mr. Shattuck's letter to you, is of such vast importance to every well regulated society, that it affords me pleasure, in the absence of that attention on your part, rendered impossible by your other high avocations, to be enabled, although in a feeble manner, to assist in procuring the information and documents necessary to elucidate the object in view.

The vagueness of our system, or rather the almost total absence of any, with regard to popular mutations and the statistics of human life, is apparent to every one in the United States; and so it must continue to be, as long as the registry of births, marriages, and deaths, is left to the simple will of the parties; and the mode of it, to the clergy, the only apparent constituted authority taking any cognizance of these acts.

It is true that we, in the United States, do stand in a point of view widely different from Europe. Compared to ours, the population of the old world is like the quiet waters of a lake rarely quitting its bed ; whilst with us, the gigantic strides we make onward, and our natural migrating propensities, give the country the aspect of a vast agitated sea, which defies all efforts to confine it within any limits. But, however great the task, it is not beyond the reach of the moralist, and the result to be obtained is well worthy of his attention and of that of the lawgiver.

The perpetual shiftings of the people at the extremities of the republic, will not, it is probable, for years to come, allow any thing like regularity being established there. If it be done at all, it should commence in the older and more thickly settled states, where, by acquired experience, social restraints are borne with less impatience, and whence, by the influence of good example, it may infuse itself farther, and ultimately be adopted every where. Honor, therefore, be rendered to the state that thus takes the lead in the good work.

The French system is believed to be as near to perfection as any extant. It is minute and precise, as will be seen by a reference to the *Code Civil*, which establishes it, a copy of which, as very clearly explained and illustrated by Rogron, a distinguished legist, accompanies this letter.

In Chapter I., articles from 34 to 54, will be seen the manner in which registers are kept, by duplicates, in the mayor's office. When filled up, or at the end of each year, one set remains there ; the other, for greater security, is lodged at the Tribunal of the Department.

Chapter II., articles from 55 to 62 specifies the mode and time of registering births.

Chapter III., articles from 63 to 75 relates to marriage ; and Chapter IV., articles from 76 to 87 designates the records of deaths.

The explanation and arguments adduced in support of each clause, by Mr. Rogron, are perfectly clear, and show with what care as a whole, a protective law follows the progress of man, from his cradle to maturity, and thence, downwards, to even beyond his grave. In looking at the details of the law, it will be observed, as contrasted with our own custom, where such a trail entirely fails, that great care has been taken by the framers of the code to preserve throughout families, the native appellation of the *mother* as well as that of the father, of the child. With us, the wife's maiden name disappears entirely, and is never, or seldom, seen in public deeds ; in France, on the contrary, not only that, but even her subsequent name or names, if she has been widowed more than once, are handed down, together with that of her husband, and by this means, family identity is, beyond equivocation, perpetuated.

The record is kept by an officer or officers, at the mayor's office, under his responsibility and direction. The registrar is in constant attendance. He performs the duties assigned to him by law, among which, he furnishes any party requiring it, a legalized copy of any act recorded. The recording is done gratis, but, for each copy, two francs are paid,—this being for the stamp and the paper used.

A condensed report is made annually by each mayor to the Prefect, the highest civil and executive authority of the department ; and these documents, together with periodical domiciliary visits, are the basis of the census of the whole population made every five years by government. From these, also, it is, that the statistical statement of the “ *mouvement de la population* ” in the “ *Annuaire du Bureau des Longitudes*,” (a most useful work, of which those for 1837 and 1838 accompany this), is made.

In the latter will be found a most interesting article, published annually by Mr. Mathieu, a man distinguished in statistical annals, and as a moralist.

The parcel marked A, contains manuscript copies of record, taken at the mayoralty of the 2d arrondissement (of which there are 12 in Paris), in ordinary cases of births, marriages and deaths.

Under the letter B will be found printed models of the above, such as are used throughout France ; varying with each case, together with the form of the register to be kept, as also the form used in the church registry. But in order that nothing be wanting that may throw light upon the subject, I have also procured a highly prized work, entitled “ *Mairie Pratique*,” or Dictionary of Forms. Commencing at page 478, the whole series of civil acts will be found.

Upon examination it will be seen that no penalty is inflicted upon the parent for neglect or omission in registering the birth of his child, although it visits the surgeon or midwife who does not do so, in the necessary absence of the father or of any one doing it in his name ; because it supposes that, had the father been present, or the mother capable, the requisite declaration and registry would have been made by them as a matter of course.

Acting upon the ground that birth, legally proved and identified, ensures to man his property and his social rights, the French law, setting aside the usual way of enforcement by the infliction of penalty, has placed its fulfilment upon the surest of all possible human basis,—self interest. Thus, in claims by inheritance or otherwise, the evidence called for *by law*, is that which the birth register can adduce.

Progressing in life, when he contracts marriage, man must present himself with that *same proof* in hand. Without the production of this, the law has interposed such great difficulties to contracting marriage, as to amount to an almost prohibition. Parents, therefore, having at heart the future welfare of their offspring, cannot, without exposing themselves to great reproach, omit taking for them, their first legal step in life. As to marrying, heedless of the mandate of the law, it is altogether out of the question, the *civil act* being, in France, the only deed constituting it. The alliance before the church, although sanctioned by morality and imperatively required by religion, is left wholly to the conscience of the individual.

In case of death, the law interposes authoritatively. Having for additional motive, the incentive of salubrity, the eye and hand of the executive are fixed upon it, and no inhumation can take place without the preliminary declaration

at the mayoralty's office, a post-mortem examination, if there be any doubt as to the manner of the death, and a consequent permission on the part of the authority to proceed.

In what way the incentives used here may be employed with us, is a point difficult of solution.

By establishing a regular registry, and by enacting that, in after times, all evidence relating to property, to descent, &c., &c., derive therefrom, we may bring parents to the first record. At each cemetery, books may be kept also, and here, we may in part succeed, as all must eventually pass that gate. But as a bar to a regular system, we have still the marriage act, with us, so capricious in its varied shapes, so hard to be reached, and which, yet, is indispensable to prove legitimate issue!

I do not possess the local information necessary to solve the question, nor can I presume to advise the abler men who have taken it up at home, but, should they view the subject as I do, they will come to the conclusion that a near approach to it would be, first of all,—

1st. The regular establishment by law of the ACTE CIVIL, making the marriage act one of civil legal interposition, independent of all religious interference; the latter to be left entirely to the dictate of conscience, and to the no less powerful conventional regulation of society; or,

2d. A system of central registry, embracing births, agreeably to the French form, with a legislative enactment, that *no other proof* than legalized copies of record be available in law. A marriage book to be kept, upon which the surnames and *family names of both parties* be entered, but not *until* the certificate of birth as specified above, shall have been produced, the marriage record thus made, to be a requisite before the courts in all litigious cases; and, finally, that it be made unlawful for any sexton or church authority to bury without permission first obtained from the mayor's office, where would, of course, be previously entered, the declaration, mode and time of the decease.

By thus interweaving all these acts, and rendering the compliance of one, necessary to the other; all the facts relative to the natural increase of the population would be brought to a centre.

The works annexed to this letter, are, I believe, sufficient to answer the queries contained in the letter of Mr. Shattuck; should they not prove so, it will afford me pleasure to supply the deficiency, and to procure such additional information as may be wanted.

I am, dear sir,

Your obedient servant,

EUGENE A. VAIL.

LIST OF WORKS AND DOCUMENTS WITH THIS LETTER.

Annuaire du Bureau des Longitudes, pour 1837,	1 vol.
“ “ “ “ “ “ 1838,	1 “
“ Mairie pratique,” ou Dictionnaire des Formes, par Dupont,	1 “
Code Civil Commenté, par Rogron,	1 “
Manuscript copies of Forms (some of which could not be procured in print.)	
Printed forms.	

A

SYSTEM FOR THE PUBLIC REGISTRATION
OF
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS,

REFERRED TO IN THE LETTER OF L. SHATTUCK, ESQ.

“It is fully as necessary for the preservation of the rights of individuals to preserve a register of Births, Marriages and Deaths, as it is to preserve a register of Deeds.”
REPORT TO PARLIAMENT IN 1833.

NOTE.

[Register Books should be made of demy, or folio post paper, of good substantial quality, about 22 by 27 inches. This would give a page of 11 by 13 inches, which would be of convenient size for the blanks. They should contain a title page, the laws, forms of returns, and other general printed regulations and instructions, all of which should be printed to be bound up at the beginning of all the registers of births, marriages, or deaths. Each register of the different kinds should be made of blanks, printed and cross-ruled according to the form here prepared, and should contain on the first page the instructions to the registrar or clerk. Separate registers for the births, marriages and deaths, may be made for large towns, or they may be all bound together.

The population of Massachusetts is about 750,000, and of these it may be estimated that 1 in 30, or about 25,000 births, 1 in 125, or 6,000 marriages, and 1 in 60, or 12,500 deaths, take place in the whole State every year. This of course is a mere estimate, and may be erroneous, though it is supposed to be not far from the truth. This would require 43,000 entries to be made every year in the State. If each sheet should contain 50 entries, it would require 860 sheets, or less than two reams of paper, which might cost \$12 to \$15. A register of two quires of paper might be made for \$2 to \$3, according to the quality of paper and style of binding; and this would last a town of 1500 inhabitants from 15 to 20 years.]

REGISTER OF BIRTHS

For the Town of ———.

DIRECTIONS TO THE REGISTRAR, OR CLERK.

1. In the parenthesis at the top of the page insert the page of the Register.
2. Fill up the running line near the top by inserting the name of the town, county and State, and the dates when the first and last entries of the page were made ; and the signature of the registrar, or clerk, who makes the entries.
3. Under “ *No.*” insert in figures the number of the entry, the births each year being numbered separately, No. 1 being the first made in the month of January.
4. Under “ *Date of Birth,*” insert the year, month and day when the birth took place. He may also insert the hour of the day when informed of it.
5. Under “ *Place of Birth,*” insert the name of the town, parish, street, or place where the birth occurred.
6. Under “ *Name, (if any),*” insert the name or names, if any shall have been given to the child before registration, or when obtained after the registration of the other particulars, but the surname must not be inserted here.
7. Under “ *Sex and Condition,*” insert *boy* or *girl*, and twins, as the case may be ; and also in addition, *colored*, if the child be not white.
8. Under “ *Name and Surname of Father,*” insert the name or names, and surnames of the father, (if known,) but if the informant declines stating the name of the father, or there shall be reason to believe that the child is illegitimate, the enquiry shall not be pressed, but the column be left blank.
9. Under “ *Occupation of Father,*” insert the profession, occupation, trade or calling of the father.
10. Under “ *Residence of Parents,*” insert the name of the town, parish, street or place where they reside.
11. Under “ *Name and Maiden Name of Mother,*” insert the name and surname of the mother before marriage, and if previously married, the name and surname of her first husband.
12. Under “ *Informant,*” insert the name and surname of the person who makes the return, and also whether he be a medical professional man or otherwise.
13. Under “ *Date of Registration,*” insert the day of the month and year when recorded.

If all the particulars under each of these heads cannot be obtained, such as can be known should be inserted.

REGISTER OF BIRTHS in the Town of *Ipswich*, County of *Essex*, State of *Massachusetts*, from the *5th day of Sept. A. D. 1842* to the *22d day of Dec. A. D. 1842*.—**JOHN SMITH**, Registrar.

No.	Date of Birth.	Place of Birth.	Name—(if any.)	Sex & Condition.	Name and Surname of Father.	Occupation of Father.	Residence of Parents.	Name and Maiden Name of Mother.	Informant.	When Registered.
76	September 5th, 1842.	17 Oak Street, Ipswich.	Elizabeth.	Girl.	Richard Vincent.	Clergyman.	Ipswich.	Elizabeth Vincent, formerly Marshall.	John Brown, M. D.	October 1st, 1842.
77	October 11th, 1842.	Ipswich.	John.	Boy.	Myron Johnson. (deceased.)	Bricklayer.	Ipswich.	Mary Johnson, formerly Otis.	Mary Johnson, the mother.	October 20th, 1842.
78	October 24th, 1842.	Moin Street, Ipswich.	Maria Louisa.	Girl. (coloured.)			Lowell.	Maria Loomis.	Maria Loomis, the mother.	October 31st, 1842.
79	October 31st, 1842.	Ipswich.		Boy. Stillborn.	Owen Thayer.	Carpenter.	Ipswich.	Ann Thayer, formerly Brown.	James Mason, M. D.	November 2d, 1842.
80	November 5th, 1842.	Ipswich, found exposed.		Boy.					Henry Walton, Overseer of the Poor.	November 12th, 1842.
81	December 10th, 1842.	Ipswich, Spring Street.		Boy.	John Loring.	Physician.	Ipswich.	Jane Loring, formerly Goodwin.	John Loring, M. D. the father.	December 14th, 1842.
82	December 15th, 1842.	At Sea.	Francis.	Boy.	John Thomas.	Mariner.	Ipswich.	Eveline Thomas, formerly Smith.	John Thomas, the father.	December 25th, 1842.
83 84	December 22nd, 1842.	Ipswich.	Jane, Joseph.	Girl, } Boy, } Twins.	Eber Brigham.	Former.	Ipswich.	Jane Brigham, formerly Nelson.	Dwight Williams, M. D.	December 20th, 1842.

SPECIMEN OF A FORM OF A RETURN FOR BIRTHS.

"I hereby certify, that I was present at the birth (or that the birth took place in the house I occupy,) described as follows:—

1. Date of birth,
2. Place of birth,
3. Name,
4. Sex and condition,
5. Name and surname of father,
6. Occupation of father,
7. Residence of parents,
8. Name of maiden name of mother,

Attest:

M. D. (or otherwise, **INFORMANT**.)

IPSWICH, the . . . day of . . . , A. D. 18 . . .

INDEX TO THE BIRTHS.

Surname of Parents.	Name of Child.	Page.	Surname of Parents.	Name of Child.	Page.	Surname of Parents.	Name of Child.	Page.
B.			J.			T.		
Benjamin.	Thomas.	82	Johnson.	John.	82	Thayer.	Owen.	82
Brigham.	Jane.	82	L.			V.		
Brigham.	Joseph.	82	Loring.	Boy.	82	Vincent.	Elizabeth.	82

The Index to the Births should be made according to the above specimen, and bound with the Register in the last part of it. It should contain the following particulars:—

1. The surnames of the parents arranged alphabetically, inserting the name of the father, except where the child appears not to have been born in wedlock, and then always the name of the mother.
2. The name, (if any,) or, if there be no name given, the sex of the child; or leave it blank for the insertion of the name when obtained.
3. The page of Registry Book where the full particulars may be found.

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REGISTER OF MARRIAGES

For the Town of ———.

DIRECTIONS TO THE REGISTRAR, OR CLERK.

-
1. In the parenthesis at the top of the page insert the page of the Register.
 2. Fill up the running line near the top by inserting the name of the town, county and State, and the dates when the first and last entries of the page were made; and the signature of the registrar, or clerk, by whom made. In those States where the laws provide for granting licences of marriage, instead of "Intentions of Marriage entered," insert "*Licenses of Marriage granted.*"
 3. Under "*No.*" insert in figures the number of the entry, the entries for each year being numbered separately, that made first in January being No. 1.
 4. Under "*Date of License or of Intentions of Marriage,*" insert the year, month and day when the same was entered or granted.
 5. Under "*Names and Surnames of the Groom and Bride,*" insert the name and surnames of the parties married, or to be married, first of the man, and under it that of the woman, writing not the initials only, but the names and double names in full.
 6. Under "*Age of Each,*" insert in figures the number of years old of both parties on the preceding birth-day.
 7. Under "*Condition,*" insert the word *bachelor*, or *maid*, *widower*, or *widow*, as the case may be, and also *colored*, if not white.
 8. Under "*Occupation,*" insert the profession, occupation, trade or calling of the man.
 9. Under "*Place of Birth,*" insert the town, county and State, if in the United States, or the Empire, Kingdom or State, if a foreigner, where each party was born.
 10. Under "*Residence at the time of Marriage,*" insert the name of the town, and, if in a populous city, the name of the street, and number of the house, in which each resided.
 11. Under "*Name and Surname of Fathers,*" insert in full length the name and surname (if known) of the fathers of each of the parties; and do this equally although such fathers may be deceased. If the female be a widow insert in addition the name and surname of the last deceased husband.
 12. Under "*Residence of Fathers,*" insert the name of the town or place where he lives, or of his last place of residence, if deceased.

13. Under "*Occupation of Fathers*," insert his profession, occupation, trade or calling.

14. Under "*Date of Marriage*," insert the name and day of the month and year when it took place.

15. Under "*Place of Marriage*," insert the name of the town, or parish and, if in a city, the street and number of the house, or the church, where it was solemnized.

16. Under "*Name and Official Station of the person by whom Married*," insert the name and surname of the person by whom married, and *clergyman*, *magistrate*, or otherwise, according as his official station may be.

17. Under "*Names of Witnesses*," insert the names of two persons who were present and witnessed the marriage.

18. Under "*Date of Registration*," insert the name and day of the month and the year when the entry was made.

19. It is important that all the foregoing particulars should be ascertained and inserted in their respective columns. Some difficulties may occur in regard to those required in the 11th, 12th and 13th sections of these directions, relating to the name and description of fathers, which in some cases cannot be always known. It is therefore proper, in the course of enquiries, to guard against offending the feelings of such persons; and it is recommended in respect to the particulars here proposed to be inserted, that the parties be merely asked whether they can furnish the means of filling them, and if they answer in the negative, the enquiry should not be pressed, nor the reason asked. Nor is it proper to insert any words of explanation of the omission, such as *not known*, or *information refused*, but the column should be left blank.

20. If a marriage take place in a different town from that where the intentions were entered, or where the license was granted, it is important that such marriage be recorded where such intentions were first made, and where one of the parties lived, and not where the marriage took place. It may, however, be recorded in a different town if the parties request it, and where neither of the parties lived, but in all cases the place of entering the intentions of marriage should be particularly mentioned in the record and in the certificate of marriage.

REGISTER OF INTENTION OF MARRIAGES entered and Marriages solemnized in the Town of *Boston*, County of *Suffolk*, State of Massachusetts, from the 10th day of *July*, A. D. 1842 to the 20th day of *Dec.* A. D. 1842.—OWEN OWENS, Registrar.

No.	Date of License, and Intention of Marriage.	Names and Surnames of the Groom and Bride.	Age of each.	Condition.	Occupation.	Place of Birth.	Place of Residence at the time of Marriage.
1	July 10th, 1842.	Thomas Addington. Elizabeth Worthing.	28 24	Bachelor. Maid.	Physician.	Amerst, N. H. Lowell.	Boston. 17 Bennett St.
2	August 15th, 1842.	James Roe Dix Wright. Henrietta Augustus.	36 34	Bachelor. Widow.	Trader. Milliner.	Boston. Groton.	Boston. 14 Roe St.
3	September 21st, 1842.	Cornelius White. Frances Ann Appleton.	45 29	Widower. Widow.	Shoemaker.	Augusta, Me. Salem.	Lynn. Boston. 15 Sea St.
4	November 12th, 1842.	Phineas Adams. Mary Eliza Jones.	60 52	Widower. Widow.	Gentleman.	England. Philadelphia.	New York. Boston.
5		Justin Jones. Cornelia Lincoln.	29 25	Bachelor. Maid.	Merchant.	New York.	New York.

Names and Surnames of the Father.	Residence of Father.	Occupation of Father.	Date of Marriage.	Place of Marriage.	Name and official station of person by whom married.	Names of Witnesses.	When Registered.
Francis Addington. John Worthing. (deceased.)	Amerst. Boston.	Farmer. Apothecary.	October 7th, 1842.	Trinity Church, Boston.	William White, Clergyman.	James Emmet. John Ford.	October 7th, 1842.
Christopher Wright. William Augustus. (former husband.)	Boston. Groton.	Trader. Farmer.					
William White, (deceased.)	Augusta, Me.	Tanner.	November 5th, 1842.	Boston. 5 Green Street.	John Simonds, Magistrate.	Peter Little. Amos Stockwell.	November 5th, 1842.
			December 10th, 1842.	Tremont House, Boston.	William Jenks, Clergyman.	Phineas Turner. Ruth Goodnow.	December 10th, 1842.
			December 20th, 1842.	Boston.	Ebenezer Cogan.	Ebenezer Cogan. Ruth Mason.	December 20th, 1842.

SPECIMEN OF A FORM OF A MARRIAGE CONTRACT.

Contract of Marriage between the parties herein described and set forth.

Particulars described.	Concerning the Man.	Concerning the Woman.
Name,		
Age,		
Condition,		
Occupation,		
Place of birth,		
Residence at the time of marriage,		
Father's name,		
Father's residence,		
Father's occupation,		
Father's name,		

The intentions of marriage between the parties above described were duly entered by me, the day of *A. D. 18*, in the Registry of Marriages for the Town of , and have been published according to law.

Attest:

Clerk.

The parties described in this instrument were duly married in by me, this day of , A. D. 18. (Signed) A — B —.

The marriage was solemnized between us:

And in the presence of us, witnesses:

C — D —.
E — F —.G — H —.
I — K —.

Recorded in the Register of Marriages for the Town of

Attest: Vol. , No. .
Registrar.

INDEX TO MARRIAGES.

Surname.	Name.	Page.	Surname.	Name.	Page.	Surname.	Name.	Page.
A.			J.					
Addington.	Thomas.	24	Jones.	Justin.	24	W.		
Augustus.	Henrietta.	24	Jones.	Justin.	24	Worthing.	Elizabeth.	24
Adams.	Phineas.	24	L.			Wright.	James R. D.	24
Appleton.	Francess Ann.	24	Lincoln.	Cornelia.	24	White.	Cornelia.	24

The Index to the Register of Marriages should be made according to the above specimen, and should contain the following particulars:

1. The surnames of the persons married, both the bridegroom and bride, alphabetically arranged.
 2. The Christian or given names of the same.
 3. The page of the Register in which the entry may be found.
- In order to render the Index complete there ought to be a separate reference to both parties, the male and female, in every entry of a marriage, the surname for the woman being her maiden surname, or, if she was a widow, the surname of her last preceding husband, according to the above examples.
- The Index should be bound with the Register; but if detached, and contains references to several volumes, the references should name the volume as well as the page.

REGISTER OF DEATHS

For the Town of ———

DIRECTIONS TO THE REGISTRAR OR CLERK.

1. In the parenthesis at the top of the page insert the page of the Register.
2. Fill up the running title near the top by inserting the name of the town, county and State, and the date when the first and last entries on the page were made; and the signature of the registrar or clerk by whom made.
3. Under "*No.*," insert in figures, the number of the entry, those for each year being numbered separately, that made first in January, being number one.
4. Under "*Date of Death.*," insert the month, day, and year, when the death took place. The hour may also be inserted if deemed expedient.
5. Under "*Name and Surname.*," insert the name and surname of the deceased, and if a widow, the name of her last deceased husband.
6. Under "*Sex and Condition.*," insert *husband* or *wife*, *bachelor* or *maid*, *widower* or *widow*, *boy* or *girl*, as the case may be. And *colored*, in addition, if not white.
7. Under "*Age.*," insert in figures the number of years old, on the last preceding birth-day, or if under one year, the number of months or days.
8. Under "*Occupation.*," insert the profession, trade, or calling, of the deceased.
9. Under "*Place of Death.*," insert the name of the city or town; and also the street and number of the house, where it occurred.
10. Under "*Years Residence.*," insert the number of years the deceased had resided in the city or town. Changes which have taken place in his residence in the same town need not be noticed. If a native born, leave the column blank.
11. Under "*Place of Birth.*," insert the name of the town, county, or State, if in the United States, or the Empire, Kingdom, or State, if a foreigner, where the deceased was born.
12. Under "*Name and Surname of Parents.*," &c., insert the name and surname of both the father and mother; and when known, the maiden surname of mother; or if a widow, the name of her last deceased husband.
13. Under "*Disease or Cause of Death.*," insert the name of the disease, or accident, by which the person died, and when he can, the duration of the disease, in figures, in years, months, days or hours. In order that the information on this head may be the best attainable, the sexton or clerk should be

required before any interment, to apply for it, when he can, to the medical attendant of the deceased person, who should be bound to give the information to the best of his ability. When no medical man has been present, or in attendance, or when no opinion of a medical man, as to the cause of death, can be obtained, the sexton or clerk may insert the cause of such death, according to the best information he can obtain, or leave it blank.

14. Under "*Place of Interment*," insert the name of the burying ground, and the number of the tomb or lot where interred.

15. Under "*Sexton*," insert the name and surname of the sexton, undertaker, or person by whom the interment was made.

16. Under "*Informant*," insert the name of the Informant, and also in addition the name of his profession or occupation.

17. Under "*When Registered*," insert the month, day, and year, when registered.

Date of Death.	Name and Surname.	Sex and Condition.	Age.			Occupation.	Place of Death.	Yes, res- idence.	Place of Birth.
			Yrs.	Mo.	Days.				
July 25th, 1842.	Thomas Jones.	Husband.	65	5	11	Attorney.	Concord.	25	Hollis, N.H.
August 5th, 1842.		Girl.					Concord.		Boston.
September 9th, 1842.	Eliza Wilson.	Wife.	35	10	4		Concord, 9 Oak St.		Groton.
September 21st, 1842.	William Johnson.	Bachelor.	40			Gentleman.	Concord.	1	England.
October 10th, 1842.	Rebecca Ann Davis.	Widow.	82	11			Concord.	30	Quincy.
November 15th, 1842.	Cato Pownall.	Widower, (colored.)	46			Laborer.	Concord.	10	New Jersey.
November 20th, 1842.	James Loud.	Boy.		10			Reading.		Reading.

Name and Surname of Parents, if a married female the name of husband.	Disease or Cause of Death.	Place of Interment.	Informant.	Sex and Age.	When Registered
Ephraim Jones. Elizabeth White.	Apoplexy, 3rd attack, 10 days.	Hill Ground, Tomb 23.	James Hador, M. D.	Eli Hunt.	July 26th, 1842.
John Morse. Anna Morse.	Stillborn.	South Tomb 85.	John Morse, the father.	John West.	August 6th, 1842.
Christopher Wilson. Eliza Wilson, (formerly Jones.)	Consumption, 9 months.	New Ground.	William White, M. D.	Eli Hunt.	September 12th, 1842.
	Typhus Fever, 14 days.	New Ground.	Josiah Bartlett, M. D.	John Leucom.	September 25th, 1842.
Widow of Amos Davis, (deceased.)	Old Age.	Carried to Quincy.	John Hurd, M. D.	Thomas Baxter.	October 10th, 1842.
	Drowned.	Centre Ground.	John Eaton.	John Eaton.	November 17th, 1842.
James Loud. Frances Loud, (formerly Fox.)	Scarlet Fever, 10 days.	Centre Ground.	William Sweetser, M. D.	John Eaton.	November 23d, 1842.

SPECIMEN OF A FORM OF RETURN FOR DEATHS.

I hereby certify, that I was present at the last sickness of the person deceased and described as follows:—

of death,

e and surname,

and condition,

— years, months, days,

ocation,

of death,

a residence in the place,

s of birth,

o and surname of parents,

ase or cause of death,

Attest:

INFORMANT.

the day of A. D. 18

INDEX TO REGISTER OF DEATHS.

Surname.	Name.	Page.	Surname.	Name.	Page.	Surname.	Name.	Page.
			J.					
			Johnson.	William.	44	P.		
D.			Jones.	Thomas.	44	Pownall.	Cato.	44
Davis.	Rebecca Ann.	44	L.			W.		
			Loud.	James.	44	Wilson.	Eliza.	44
			M.					
			Morse.	Girl.	44			

The Index to the Deaths should be made like the above specimen, and bound with the Register in the last part of it. It should contain the following particulars:—
1. The surnames of the deceased, arranged alphabetically; or if the deceased be a child and has no name, the surname of its parents.
2. The name of the deceased; or if a child without a name, its sex.
3. The page of the Register where the full particulars may be found.

REGISTRATION

J. P. B. 1852
OF

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

IN

MASSACHUSETTS.

